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THE CHEMIST & DRUGGIST

NEW WORLD ISSUE

JUNE 15, 1912



A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug and Chemical Trades.
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WHY

are Insets such a popular feature of Special Issues of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and why do makers and sellers of all kinds of drug-trade merchandise spend so much money on them year after year?

BECAUSE—

They are seen and admired by 12,000 genuine traders in druggists' goods who are potential buyers.

They are part of a handsome publication of literary and scientific interest which is kept for reference.

Advertisers of experience have proved over and over again that *Insets sell their goods*.

The next opportunity for inset-distribution will be the Summer Issue of July 27. All particulars and assistance from the Publisher, THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Summary.

The more notable items only are dealt with.

The portraits in the heading are of the President of the United States (Mr. Taft) and the Governor-General of Canada (H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught).

The latest information about the British Pharmacopœia is on p. 76.

Chemists' dinners in the Cape and Transvaal are reported on pp. 98-99.

The wages chemists have to pay in Queensland are mentioned on p. 68.

Interesting results on the effect of cultivation on drugs are given on p. 95.

The Shops Act is interfering with the Irish Pharmaceutical Council meetings (p. 98).

Variations of temperature in the Orange Free State have been taken for Pharmacopœia purposes (p. 98).

An abstract of the report of the Java Government cinchona-plantations for the first quarter of 1912 is given on p. 93.

Japan has passed a new law regulating the sale of poisonous and powerful substances, which is in several respects novel (p. 82).

Mr. Jay Mack makes some novel suggestions regarding the revision of the B.P. in the light of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts (p. 105).

An illustrated article on Edinburgh, showing some of its historic places as they were a hundred years ago and now, begins on p. 100.

Representation of pharmacists on the Provisional Health Committees of the National Insurance Act has been arranged. This and other news about the Act are given on pp. 74-75.

Some opinions of the Shops Act are given by chemists on p. 105. The Home Secretary has answered questions pertinent to pharmacy, which are reported on p. 77, and other questions are dealt with on p. 107.

It is said that the doctors are coming to an agreement with Mr. Lloyd George about Insurance Act fees, and that the 8s. 6d. will include medicine. The latter statement should be accepted with reserve (p. 74).

The usual drug-auctions were abandoned this week owing to the inability of importers to obtain supplies. Meanwhile business is "hung up" pending a settlement of the strike. The price changes include an advance in morphine, otto, lemon oil, balsam tolu, copper sulphate, and paraffin wax. Quicksilver, mercurials, and cocaine are cheaper. Santonin and codeine are expected to advance (p. 93).

A large section of this issue is devoted to the Patent-medicine Inquiry. Reports of the evidence of Mr. Guy Stephenson, Dr. Nestor Tirard, and Dr. A. Cox, Secretary of the British Medical Association, begin on p. 84. It is noteworthy that part of the Association's charge against the proprietary-medicine trade was taken *in camera*, as questions of privilege arose. In an editorial article we show how developments in the inquiry indicate probable alterations of the law which may seriously affect the business interests of all who deal in medicines, stamped or exempted (p. 81).

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The Glamorgan County Licensing Committee has granted an off wine-licence to Mr. Richard James Morgan, The Pharmacy, Ystradmynach.

Plans have been passed by Stretford (Manchester) Urban District Council for a factory in Chester Road for the Veno Drug Co., Ltd.

The Broadstairs Pier and Harbour Commissioners have granted Mr. Julian Horrell, Ph.C., permission to place a stall on the sands for the sale of chemists' fancy goods.

A fire broke out last week in the storeroom of Messrs. Wright & Son, chemists, 27 Walter Road, Swansea. The fire brigade extinguished the outbreak before much damage had been done.

The Drug Club half-yearly meeting was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Tuesday, June 11, Mr. William P. Evans, of Liverpool (President), in the chair. There was a good attendance, and the business was of a routine nature.

The chemist's shop, No. 16 New Street, Lancaster, and the adjoining shop, No. 18, have been sold by auction for 750*l.* at Lancaster. The premises, which are opposite the Lancaster Post Office, were part of the estate of the late Mr. J. Wilcock, retired chemist, who was formerly in business under the title Messrs. Bagnall & Wilcock.

At a meeting of the Blackburn Guardians on June 8, the Clerk read a letter from Mr. C. H. Hacking, Ph.C., dispenser to the Union, stating that "as the office is so obviously underpaid," he regretted he could not undertake duties any longer at the present scale of remuneration. He stated that unless the Guardians could see their way to increase the salary attached to the office to 40*l.*, he preferred to resign the position. The resignation was accepted by the Guardians.

At Llandrindod Wells last week, a horse, which became startled, dashed across the road into the window of the pharmacy of Mr. W. S. Bound, chemist and druggist. The animal, which was badly cut, regained its feet and rushed along Temple Street, turning the corner safely but rushing against the wall of the shop of Mr. R. H. Evans, chemist and druggist, narrowly missing another window. Curiously enough the animal's mad career was eventually checked opposite a third chemist's establishment.

Poison-licences.

The Birkenhead Town Council has granted a poison-licence to Mr. Joseph Hardman.

The Canterbury, Chorley, Lancaster, and Winchester Town Councils have renewed poison-licences issued by them for another year.

The Lancaster Town Council has referred applications for poison-licences for licensees' assistants to the Diseases and Animals Committee.

Mr. John Herbert Edward Worthing, ironmonger, Alma House, Radnor; Mr. Richard Williams, drug-vendor, Borth, Cardigan; and Mr. Henry Newman, nurseryman, 16 and 18 Woodford Road, Watford, have applied for poison-licences to their respective local authorities.

Contracts.

St. Faith's (Norwich) Guardians.—Mr. J. Cossey, chemist, Norwich, for trusses.

Dartford Urban Council.—Adcocks and the United Alkali Co., Ltd., for the year's disinfectants.

Canterbury City Council.—E. Bing & Son, chemists, Canterbury, for the supply of drugs to the sanatorium during the ensuing year.

Hove Town Council.—S. J. Weston & Co., chemists, Hove, for the supply of drugs, surgical dressings, and appliances to the sanatorium for a year.

Stoke-on-Trent.—For supplies of chemicals for various schools: Boots, Ltd., Tunstall, for acids; Mr. T. Leicester, chemist, Burslem, Mr. E. S. Insull, chemist, Hanley,

Philip Harris & Co., Birmingham, J. A. Dale, chemist, Stoke-on-Trent, for chemicals; Mr. S. G. Challinor, chemist, and Philip, Son & Nephew, for chemicals for Ferton schools; Mr. F. A. Bloor, chemist, and W. & J. George, for chemicals for Longton schools.

The Yarmouth Guardians have given the contract for the supply of medicines on the same terms as at Gorleston (namely, 6*d.* per bottle and 10 per cent. on any special drugs) to Mr. F. E. Whitfield, chemist and druggist, 65 Regent Road. Two pharmacists offered to accept the terms, and the selection between them was decided by the casting vote of the chairman of the committee. Exception was taken to this by Mr. J. S. Shearman, chemist, who moved that Messrs. Poll & Son, of Regent Road, be appointed, as Mr. Whitfield held a hospital appointment that took up part of his time daily. Mr. D. T. King (chairman of the committee) said he did not know either chemist, but as Mr. Whitfield wrote and offered his services when the Board appeared to have arrived at an *impasse* he considered he had the best claim. On dividing eleven votes were given to Mr. Whitfield and nine to Messrs. Poll & Son. The Board next appointed Mr. T. L. Drabble chemist for Southtown and Cobholm on the score of convenience. The medical officer now supplies medicines in one district only.

Analysts' Affairs.

The Durham Town Council have appointed Mr. W. F. K. Stock, F.I.C., Darlington, as public analyst for the city.

Among the 175 samples examined by the City of London analyst during the six weeks ended May 25 were thirteen of drugs. All of the latter were genuine.

The Sheffield analyst reports that four samples each of camphorated oil and sweet nitre and one of compound liquorice-powder were analysed recently. Only one sample (spirit of nitre) was not up to standard, and in this case the vendor was fined 10*s.*, including costs.

The Bioscope as a Germ Exhibitor.

The second of a series of cinematograph demonstrations, promoted by the proprietors of "The Bioscope" to show the advantages of "teaching through the eye" by means of the moving picture, was given at Cinema House, 225 Oxford Street, London, W., on June 12. The demonstration was concerned with natural science. The films depicted blood-circulation, development of a chicken and axolotl from their respective embryos, plant-germination, movement of sensitive plants, the fly-pest, and a lesson in liquid air. The subjects were highly instructive, some of the results achieved, such as the development of the chick embryo, being marvellous. The descriptions, however, left much to be desired as regards scientific accuracy.

Midland Notes.

There has been an unprecedented run on insect-powder in Birmingham as a result of the warm and dry weather experienced during May.

Dr. Rudolph Messel, President of the Society of Chemical Industry, was entertained to dinner by the Birmingham and Midland Section on June 12.

The retail perfumery business of Messrs. Barnett & Co., Bristol Street, Birmingham, has been transferred to Messrs. Reeve & Ollershaw's establishment in New Street.

This season has been a prolific one for honey in the Midlands, one hive having yielded at Brainsford Road, between Malvern and Worcester, 1½ cwt. of this commodity.

Colonel Wyley, Mayor of Coventry, is interesting himself in the formation of a battalion of cycle Territorials and also a Coventry garden suburb, the latter of which is to cost 60,000*l.*

Mrs. Suffield (*née* Miss Fanny Type) has given up recently the dispensership of the Sutton Cottage Dispensary, which she has held for fifteen years. The medical staff and nurses presented her with a silver cake-basket, suitably inscribed.

An attractive device for advertising "Charco-peptics," which is to be seen in the window of Messrs. Thornley & Co., Snow Hill, Birmingham, is an imitation charcoal fire. The charcoal is lighted from below by red light, with a very pretty effect.

From Various Courts.

At Sheffield on June 4, Ellen Kay, Sherrington Street, Sheffield, was fined 10s. for selling sweet spirit of nitre below standard strength. Defendant undertook not to sell the drug in future.

At Llandilo on June 8, F. Emerson Thomas was fined 1l. and costs, with 10s. 6d. advocate's fee, for unlawfully using titles stating that he was specially qualified to practise a branch of veterinary surgery.

At Scarborough on June 4, Kathleen Florence Brook Clements was granted a maintenance order for 10s. against her husband, John Bernard Clements, described as a chemist and druggist, of 64 Furness Road, Normacot, Staffs.

At Droxford last week, Henry W. White, of Wickham, was fined 1l. and costs, under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, for issuing a certificate respecting his examination of an animal and signing it as a veterinary surgeon. Defendant pleaded guilty, and a previous conviction for a similar offence was proved against him.

At Stourbridge County Court on June 5, Needham & Co., Ltd., chemists, Stourbridge, sued James Arbutt for 4l. damage done on May 12 to a plate-glass window at their shop in High Street. Defendant pleaded that the affair was an accident. Judgment was given for plaintiffs for the sum claimed.

At the Paddington Coroner's Court on June 7, Mr. Walter Schroder inquired into the death of Mr. Robert Kilpatrick, chemist and druggist, 56 Morshead Mansions, Maida Vale, London, W. Dr. Edwin Felix, who attended deceased, said his *post-mortem* examination showed that the whole of deceased's organs were in a healthy state, but the general congestion of them suggested death being due to some form of poisoning, such as from veronal or sulphonal. The inquest was adjourned for an analysis to be made.

At Tunbridge Wells on June 4, Ernest Mathias Spero, Castle House, Castle Road, Southsea, was fined 40s., or in default to undergo a month's imprisonment, for embezzling 2l. belonging to Mr. Henry Samuel Pearmund, Ph.C., Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells. Accused was engaged last February for dental work at a salary of 2l. per week, with 5 per cent. commission and all expenses paid. He had to attend at Mr. Pearmund's branches at Lewes and Horsham, but he was dismissed in March because his work was not done satisfactorily. Later it was found that sums paid to the accused had not been accounted for.

During the charge against Thomas Ottey, chemist, Derby Street, Burton, of supplying a noxious powder to females (*C. & D.*, June 8, index folio 828), Dr. P. A. Docherty said his analysis showed that the powder consisted of colocynth without any other purgatives. Prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, said, in the course of his evidence, that the powders contained aloes, colocynth, starch, and carmine, while the pills contained the same ingredients. At the Burton Police Court on June 7, a female witness deposed to going to the side-door at prisoner's house and asking for one of his powders. She was asked whether she preferred the powders or the pills, and she chose the former, adding that she had been recommended to go to him. Prisoner said the powders were more effective, but the gentry had the pills. He warned her that the powders were dangerous, and made other remarks in regard to them. He advised her how to take them, and then went behind a screen. While there he said: "You must mind I must mark this Poison," and when he returned he handed her the powder. A few days later she asked for another powder, telling prisoner that the previous one had had no effect. Accused replied: "It is very dangerous taking these powders," and prisoner said he did not recommend them, and had not done so for thirty years. He said: "They sometimes kill or cure. Society ladies and actresses," he added, "come to me, and have them sometimes." She paid sixpence for each packet, and subsequently handed them to Detective Arnold. On May 21 she again went to prisoner's house, accompanied this time

by another woman. Before they left, prisoner said: "I am making a thousand million pills." Witness admitted that some of what she said to prisoner was, "of course, untrue," adding that she went on the instructions of Detective Arnold. Another witness gave similar evidence, and said she was sent by Superintendent Moss.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. J. J. Conway, Ph.C., Naas, has removed to larger premises at 17 South Main Street, of the same town.

Mr. David Cowan, Victoria Road, Bangor, co. Down, has acquired premises at 191 Albert Bridge Road, Belfast, with a view to opening a dental surgery.

Mr. J. E. Connor, J.P., Ph.C., represented the Technical Committee of the Warrenpoint Town Council at the annual Irish Technical Congress in Cork last week.

Mr. W. L. Young, Ph.C., lately with Messrs. Hoyte & Co., Lower Sackville Street, Dublin, has been appointed resident dispenser to the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin.

At the annual meeting of Belfast Board of Guardians last week Mr. D. W. Elliott, Ph.C., Shaftesbury Square, was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Infirmary Committee.

At the annual meeting of Londonderry County Council on June 7 Mr. J. E. O'Neill, J.P., druggist, Maghera, and Chairman of the Magherafelt Board of Guardians, was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of Council.

Fire broke out on Sunday evening in the premises of Mr. Jas. Dundee, Ph.C., 95 University Road, Belfast. The fire brigade was summoned, but in the meantime the inmates attacked the fire vigorously and extinguished it. The damage was not serious.

Messrs. Wm. Dobbin & Co., chemists and druggists, North Street, Belfast, are carrying out extensive alterations at their premises, including the setting back of the frontage line by 9 ft. in order that the street may be widened. They received substantial compensation from the Corporation for the land so required.

The Navan Board of Guardians want Mr. Carnegie to purchase the secret of a cancer-cure possessed by an old lady in Beauparc, to whose ancestor many years ago a sailor confided the secret. It is stated that the remedy, consisting of certain herbs, is being used with success in every case except where the patient is too far gone for treatment.

Vets. and Patent Medicines.

At the meeting of the Royal Veterinary College of Surgeons in Dublin on June 5 the Chairman referred to the Select Committee on Patent Medicines, and said he had been appointed to give evidence on the subject. Mr. McKenny said there is a growing belief that medicines have a very limited effect on patients, a view that is also held by many of the medical profession. Patent medicines and secret remedies, however, are extending greatly. Why inflict on students the task of learning what would be useless? The old practice of writing prescriptions is dying out, and at present there are a great many who are not capable of writing them. He had himself secret preparations, and had no intention whatever of allowing the whole profession to know what they are. The Chairman said they wanted every member of the profession to be able to compete with druggists. The annual report referred to efforts made to obtain rectified spirit at reduced duty, and it was considered that a satisfactory amendment had been obtained in the Finance Act. The Council during the year passed a resolution regarding patent medicines, and expressing the opinion "that all patent medicines should have a full description on each package, showing the quantity of every constituent contained in the preparation."

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

At Grangemouth soapworks of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., there was during the first quarter of the year an increase of 23 tons in the output of soap and soap-powder.

Mr. George Mackay has taken over the business at 1 Mounthooly, Aberdeen, formerly owned by Mr. James Spence. Mr. Mackay, who has also received the appointment of sub-postmaster, formerly managed Mr. Leslie's Sunnybank branch.

Dundee.

Mr. Wm. Walker, chemist and druggist, Downfield, has been absent from business for three weeks, but a fortnight's rest at Ardler has had a good effect in restoring him to health.

A promising career has been closed by the death in her eighteenth year of Miss Elsie Doig, daughter of Mr. John L. Doig, and granddaughter of Mr. William Doig, of Messrs. Wm. Doig & Son, chemists and druggists, Dundee. A year ago Miss Doig was dux of Dundee High School, and was first among female students in the bursary competition at Edinburgh University. While studying there she had an attack of pneumonia which undermined her health, and she died at Newport-on-Tay on Saturday last.

Edinburgh.

Messrs. Boots, Ltd., have now opened their handsome shop in Princes Street.

Mr. A. D. Guthrie, chemist and druggist, has sold his business at Bonnington.

The result of the recent "census" as to whether the local pharmacists are still in favour of the half-holiday, is said to show a net increase of one signature.

Mr. W. Taylor Robson, chemist and druggist, Great Junction Street, Leith, has opened as a branch shop the premises in Main Street, Newhaven, where the late Mr. Mitchell carried on business.

A note in a local newspaper to the effect that medical men were now too busy to pen such talcs as "Rab and his Friends" elicited a reply from a "Medical Student," giving numerous examples of contemporary medical novelists and journalists.

The twenty-first annual sports meeting of Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club was held in the Marine Park on June 5. Sport was of an attractive kind, and the contesting keen. The meeting was well managed, but heavy wind at the corners and in the back straight proved somewhat troublesome. Messrs. T. Jack and K. Whitton were the judges; Mr. Kinninmont acted as referee and Messrs. D. S. Duncan and George Hume as timekeepers. Messrs. George Coull, A. J. Dey, J. Rutherford Hill, G. F. Merson, and G. Somerville were judges of confined events, and Mr. W. Armstrong starter. Mr. J. Laidlaw Ewing, J.P. (Hon. President), presided at the distribution of prizes, and in the course of his remarks congratulated the club on attaining its "majority." Mr. Ewing was the first hon. president of the club. Mrs. Ewing handed the prizes to the successful competitors.

Glasgow.

Mr. T. Stewart Barrie, M.B., Ch.B., F.C.S., formerly of the West of Scotland College of Pharmacy, has started practice as a surgeon-oculist at 23 Granville Street, West, Charing Cross, Glasgow.

In a "Glasgow Herald" correspondence regarding chemists and the Shops Act, Mr. George Shiach Kitchin, Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association, states that the actual closing order—requested by 98 per cent. of the chemists in Glasgow—is at present delayed owing to the compiling of the new register, but once it is obtained there is no doubt the authorities will see that it is enforced.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of nine Societies of Chemists in Australia and New Zealand, and to many other Chemists in business there.

New South Wales.

PURE FOODS COMMISSION.—At the sitting in Sydney on April 9 evidence was given on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society by Messrs. Carroll, Short, and Wadsworth.

New Zealand.

B.P. OINTMENTS.—The practical trials of the method of adjusting the B.P. ointments so that these will be of a consistence suitable for the various climates of the Empire have, according to the "Otago Daily Times," been entrusted to Mr. A. Bagley, Dunedin. The tests are to occupy at least three months.

IMPERIAL RECIPROCITY.—At the biennial conference of the Pharmacy Board of New Zealand the subjects discussed included reciprocity of pharmaceutical diplomas with Great Britain. It was suggested that the requirement of evidence of systematic study before entry for the qualifying examination was too indefinite, and that this should not be required until a compulsory curriculum has been established in Great Britain. The registration fees were referred to as an "oppressive imposition."

Queensland.

PHARMACEUTICAL REGISTER.—The "Pharmaceutical List of Queensland for 1912," which has been published in accordance with the Pharmacy Act, 1884, contains 268 names, and of these seven are those of women. Fifty-three of the persons are registered in accordance with the Medical Act, 1867, and thirty-one with a qualification obtained in Great Britain. Two persons hold the Irish qualification of pharmaceutical chemist.

WAGES CLAIM.—The Brisbane Chemists' Assistants' Board have drawn up a claim which embodies the following wages for a forty-eight hour week:

Chief Assistant.—Where two or more assistants are employed, 1s. 9d. per hour [4l. 4s. per week].

Registered Assistants.—1s. 6d. per hour [3l. 12s. per week].

Unregistered Assistant of Five Years' Standing.—1s. 3d. per hour [3l. per week].

Improver.—(First year) 10d. per hour [2l. per week]; (second year) 1s. 1d. per hour [2l. 12s. per week].

Improver who has Passed the Intermediate Examination. 1s. 3d. per hour [3l. per week].

Apprentice.—(First year) 2½d. per hour [10s.]; (second year) 3½d. per hour [15s.]; (third year) 5d. per hour [20s.].

Overtime to be paid at from one and a half to double time for every hour or part thereof. The holidays are to be two weeks per year, in addition to public holidays.

Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHEMIST-OPTICIANS.—This Association was definitely formed on April 25 at a meeting in Melbourne. It is formed on the model of the London Society of Chemist-Opticians, with a subscription of 10s. 6d. per annum.

FOOD AND DRUG STANDARDS.—The provisional revised regulations under the Victorian Pure Food and Drugs Act contain monographs on cream of tartar, citric and tartaric acids, in which the proportion of arsenic and lead is limited to one-hundredth and one-seventh of a grain per lb. respectively. Mixed spice and ground mixed pepper are defined.

Western Australia.

SQUIRE'S "COMPANION."—In the draft regulations of the Drug Standards Committee the following occurs:

"The standard for such drugs as are referred to in the British Pharmacopoeia with amendments shall be the standard prescribed by Squire's 'Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia,' 18th edition, 1908, unless otherwise standardised in these regulations."

At the Dukinfield Police Court on June 6, Thomas Shaw, grocer, Wharf Street, was fined 2s. 6d. for selling sweet spirit of nitre which was deficient in ethyl nitrite to the extent of 91 per cent.

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

MR. R. N. LYNE, formerly Director of Agriculture in Zanzibar, has been appointed the Director of the New Agricultural Department of Ceylon.

SUPPRESSING CHANDU-SMOKING.—At a meeting of the Straits Settlements Legislative Council at Singapore amendments to the rules made under the Chandu Revenue Ordinance, 1909, were approved of. The acting Colonial Secretary reported that, following out the general scheme for the reduction of chandu (prepared opium) consumption, prices had been advanced by about 50 per cent. As far as he had been able to trace lately, there had not in the last year or so been any material increase in the use of morphine or cocaine in the Straits Settlements.

INDIAN OPIUM-TRADE.—Reuter's Simla correspondent telegraphed on June 10 that the position of the Indian opium-trade with China is growing worse, but the Government of India, after consulting experts, is opposed to the restriction of sales of certified opium on the grounds that it is necessary to protect sellers for forward delivery and that such a restriction would involve the Indian revenue in grave loss. The Shanghai correspondent also telegraphs that the collapse of prices at Tuesday's opium-sale in Calcutta caused a panic in the local opium-market. Merchants state that they are overburdened with stock owing to the entire closing of the Che-kiang province to Indian opium and illegal restrictions in other provinces for many months past. They declare that while Indian opium is being shut out the cultivation of native poppy continues on a large scale, the Opium Agreement of May 1911 being violated with impunity, and the protests of the British officials entirely disregarded. Meanwhile, the merchants say, the Indian Government continues selling, and the stock of opium in Shanghai has depreciated in value by 2,000,000% since May 1.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

SLEEPING-SICKNESS VICTIM.—The Pasteur Institute at Paris has at present among its patients undergoing treatment for sleeping sickness Professor Alexandre Lanfranchi, Director of the Veterinary School at Parma. It appears that the Professor contracted the disease while carrying on experiments on dogs concerning sleeping sickness.

MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENT.—On the morning of June 8 the pharmacy of M. Riet, 15 Rue de Paris, Ecouen, near Paris, was the scene of a serious motor-car accident. The driver of a taxi-motor lost control of his steering-gear, and the car dashed into the pharmacy, causing serious damage. One passenger in the car was killed and another seriously injured, but the chauffeur and two ladies escaped.

LENGTHENING LIFE.—Professor Metchnikoff is still working at the problem of preventing the encroachments of age in mankind. In a communication to the Academy of Sciences this week he told of a plan of employing the "glycobacter" bacillus from the intestines of the dog as a means of preventing the formation of the bacteria which, raising the blood-pressure, are such an important factor in producing old-age effects.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.—At the last meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine a letter was read from Professor Léger offering himself as a candidate for the seat in the section of pharmacy of the Academy left vacant by the death of Dr. Caventou. For a good many years M. Léger has been prominent as one of the leading French scientific pharmacists, and the chances of his election to the somewhat envied position of a member of the Academy of Medicine appear favourable. He is an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

STERILISATION OF SURGICAL DRESSINGS.—Professor Grimbert, of the Paris School of Pharmacy, read a paper

on this subject at the last meeting of the Academy of Medicine. He showed that the autoclave process for the sterilisation of surgical dressings remains the most practical and safest method in use, but that a diversity of opinion still exists regarding the degree of temperature to be adopted as well as the details of the technique. As a general rule, compresses, cotton-wool, and muslin gauzes not being good conductors of heat, there is a tendency to prolong sterilisation beyond reasonable limits and under exaggerated temperatures. Professor Grimbert demonstrated by a series of experiments on very resisting spores of bacilli, that even in hermetically closed metallic boxes the sterilisation of tissues or cotton-wool is assured by reason of the natural moisture they contain, providing they are submitted to a sufficiently high temperature, which he gives as 120° C. He also showed that the vapour penetrates in these substances much more easily than might be supposed. As there are no spores which resist moist heat at the temperature indicated, it suffices to see that it attains in the centre of the objects which are being sterilised. To shorten the duration of the operation the Professor suggests adopting for sterilisation by autoclave a temperature of 130° C. during a lapse of time which may vary with the nature of the objects, but will never exceed one hour, and to employ as a means of control tubes of benzoic acid, which substance melts at 120° to 121° C.

POISONING FATALITIES.

TEN fatalities with poisons have been reported since our last issue, five of these being due to misadventure.

Acetic Acid was responsible for the death of an elderly Whitehaven widow named Mary Ann Bell. At the inquiry Dr. Pratt said acetic-acid poisoning was very rare, there only being half a dozen cases on record. Strong acetic was undoubtedly a poison, and yet it was sold in bottles similar to beer-bottles, and not labelled "Poison." He suggested that it should be sold in poison-bottles and properly labelled. The jury added to their verdict of death from accidental poisoning a rider recommending that precautions should be adopted in selling strong acetic acid similar to those suggested by Dr. Pratt.

Ammonia was responsible for the accidental death at Rochdale of Thomas Foy (75). The poison had been left standing on the kitchen table. At the inquest the Coroner observed: "This case shows the danger of keeping poisons in the house. How anybody could take that by mistake I cannot think. It is enough to knock you down when you pull the cork off."

Cocaine.—At the inquest held on Dorothy Edwards (25), West Gorton, it was stated that deceased had been in the habit of taking morphine for acute abdominal pains. Medical evidence, however, showed that she had taken about 14 grains of cocaine hydrochloride. The jury returned a verdict of "death through misadventure."

Laudanum in accidental overdose caused the death of John Evan Miller (50), horskeeper, Bermondsey.

Potassium Cyanide.—A silversmith named Harry Ernest Adams (28) purposely poisoned himself at Fulham with this chemical.—This substance was also used for suicidal purposes by Frederick George Miles, mail driver, Norwich. Deceased had been refused a supply of poison by a chemist, but he previously obtained the lethal agent used for killing wasps.

Spirit of Camphor.—Harriet Gibbs (59), governess, died at Bath from the effects of taking an overdose of spirit of camphor. At the inquest the Coroner asked if the drug was scheduled as a poison. Dr. G. Hardyman: "I think not. It ought to be."

Spirit of Salt.—Edith L. Pipkin (42), the wife of a Stoke Newington clerk, killed herself by taking this corrosive fluid. At the inquest a juror asked how the poison was so easily obtainable. The Coroner (Dr. W. W. Westcott) said deceased had purchased a supply from Messrs. Walton, Hassell & Port, oil and colour men. All the vendors had to do in order to conform with the law was to put the acid in a blue fluted bottle and label it "Poisonous." This had been done, and it was really remarkable how readily vendors of this poison had fallen into line with the new regulations.

Strychnine was used as a suicidal agent by Welby Adams (22) at Uphill, near Weston-super-Mare.

Kind Not Stated.—Lily Bazley (20) committed suicide at Baldwins Hill, near Lingfield, on account of love worries.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Suing Provincials in London Courts.—In the City of London Court on June 7, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., the Tarsap Co., 120 Fenchurch Street, E.C., sought to recover the sum of 4*l.* for oil supplied to the defendant, Mr. Albert J. Matthews, Penselwood, Bourton, Somerset. The defence was that the plaintiffs' representative induced defendant to give an order, but all he ordered was a cask of 1 cwt. for 32*s.*, and 2½ cwt. had been sent him. As more was sent him than was ordered he had refused to have anything to do with it. He ought not to have been sued in London, as there was a county court three miles from his town. Judge Rentoul told the defendant he was quite right in his view of the law that he need not take any of the oil, as much more was sent than, according to him, he had ordered. Mr. Gibbs said that 4*l.* was mentioned on the order which the defendant had signed. Defendant declared that the 4*l.* was not on the order when he signed it. Mr. Gibbs said that raised a very serious issue. Judge Rentoul agreed, and said it was the greatest possible madness of the plaintiffs to have sued the defendant in London. He would remit the case to the local county court in Somersetshire, and he thought the defendant ought to have his costs of that day in any event.

High Court Cases.

Unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice, London.

LACTO-BACILLINE AS A TRADE-MARK.

In the Court of Appeal, consisting of the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Farwell and Kennedy, on Thursday, June 13, there came on for hearing the appeal of La Société Anonyme Le Ferment from a decision of Mr. Justice Joyce in the Chancery Division refusing an application by La Société for the registration of the word "Lacto-Bacilline" as a trade-mark for a pharmaceutical preparation used for souring milk. While Mr. Walter, K.C., was addressing the Court for the appellants it transpired that the papers and documents which had been supplied to the Judges were not in order, and the further hearing was adjourned until Monday to enable the mistake to be rectified.

MEDICAL LIBEL SUIT.

The Lord Chief Justice and a special jury commenced the hearing on Tuesday, June 11, of an action by Dr. Robert Bell against Dr. Ernest Francis Bashford and the British Medical Association claiming damages for libel in the "British Medical Journal" in May 1911, in the course of an article by Dr. Bashford on "Cancer, Credulity and Quackery," upon which there was an editorial article in which an alleged libel also occurred. The defendants plead that, in so far as the words complained of consisted of allegations of fact, they were in their ordinary signification true in substance and in fact; and in so far as they consisted of expressions of opinion they were fair comment made in good faith and without malice upon those facts which were matters of public interest. The plaintiff formerly practised in Glasgow. He says that cancer is a blood disease, due to flesh-eating and the use of too much cooked food. He had a large practice in Glasgow and London, and formerly visited London periodically, but finally removed to London.

Medicine-stamp Acts.

"GOOD FOR" NOT "CURE."

At Doncaster West Riding Police Court on June 3, William Nicholls, stonemason, Mexboro, was prosecuted by the Excise authorities for selling a dutiable ointment without a licence and without a stamp. It was stated that an Excise officer received a complaint, and on February 26 called at the defendant's house in Helena Street. He saw in the windows a card bearing these words:

"Magic ointment sold here. Guaranteed finest remedy for eczema, blood-poisoning, burns, scalds, bad legs, ring-worm, chilblains, and cuts of all kinds."

The officer went in and asked for a box of "Nicholl's magic ointment"; this was handed to him, and he paid

6*d.* for it. He asked defendant's son, who served him, whether there was any card or anything of that sort advertising the ointment, and the man produced a card bearing an inscription very much like the other one. The solicitor for the prosecution urged that there was no excuse in this case on the ground of ignorance, for as far as he was able to ascertain the defendant had a rather exceptional knowledge of the law relating to patent medicines, and knew sufficient to enable him to have gone to the Excise and make inquiries. He had confessed to the officer that he had been selling medicine for a considerable time, not only in his own house but in various places in the country. The revenue had suffered as a consequence, and chemists had suffered by this unfair competition. He asked for a penalty sufficient to stop this sort of thing.

An Excise officer stated that defendant had since taken out a licence. Witness had seen the ointment advertised elsewhere.

Defendant went into the box and said he had manufactured the ointment for a considerable time. The cards he had printed for the express purpose of trying to do the public good. (Laughter.) He found out he could effect various cures by means of the ointment. He meant taking out a licence, because he knew if he did he could get more money out of it. With the Government stamp fixed to it people would believe there was much more in the ointment. (Laughter.)

Mrs. Violet Bolton, defendant's daughter, said the card did not say the ointment cured the things mentioned, but that it was good for them.

The Magistrates told defendant he ought to have taken a licence out before. They fined him 10*s.*, and 8*s.* 6*d.* costs, in each of the two cases, or fourteen days.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

ARSENIC IN BAKING-POWDER.

Before Mr. Fordham at the West London Police Court, on June 10, Thomas Russell, trading as the Fulham Cross Granary, Lillie Road, was summoned under Section 6 of the 1875 Act for selling baking-powder which contained 1½ grain of arsenic per pound. Mr. Walmsley prosecuted for the Fulham Borough Council, and Mr. Cyril H. Kirby (Neve, Beck & Kirby) defended. Mr. Walmsley stated that the powder was "warranted to contain 10 per cent. of sulphate as recommended by the Local Government Board's report on self-raising flour"; also, "We warrant this to conform with the Food and Drugs Act, 1900." He added that the powder was made with calcium phosphate which had been contaminated with arsenic from sulphuric acid used in course of manufacture. Mr. Kirby explained that the defendant pleaded guilty because he was not the manufacturer of the powder, and proceeding to speak of the contamination said there was no arsenic in this baking-powder that would be likely to prove of any detriment to the consumer, because it was undoubtedly a fact that arsenic is a very useful tonic. The certificate was made out in a somewhat unusual form by the public analyst, who, according to the Statute, was required to certify the percentage of foreign ingredients. He had not certified that, but had stated it in the form of vulgar fractions, and as far as he could make out, the percentage of foreign ingredients was something like .00000305. Mr. Kirby was proceeding to deal with the constituents of the article when the Magistrate said he did not like to see him looking so anxious. Mr. Kirby replied that he was anxious because of the use of the word "arsenic." It had caused a scare once in the past, and he did not wish it to do so again. He wanted the consumers to understand that there was no harm in this baking-powder. The defendant himself used it a good deal in his own home. Dr. Jackson, Medical Officer of Health for Fulham, said the amount of arsenic present in this baking-powder was really extremely infinitesimal, and it would be a very small amount indeed which would be found in a 1-lb. loaf, but repeated consumption of small doses would have a serious effect. Mr. Fordham said there was no doubt that a technical offence had been committed, and ordered the defendant to pay the costs, 12*s.* 6*d.*

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re MacNaught Bros., 4 West Blackhall Street, Greenock, and Archibald Hamilton MacNaught, the only known partner of that firm, Chemists, General Dealers, etc.—The trustee in this sequestration has intimated that an account of his intromissions with the funds of this estate, brought down to May 27, has been made up by him and audited and approved by the Commissioners on the estate; and that he has prepared lists of those creditors entitled to be ranked on the funds of the estate and also of those whose claims have been rejected in whole or in part. The trustee has further intimated that on and after Monday, July 29, 1912, a first dividend will be paid at his office, 93 West George Street, Glasgow, to those creditors whose claims have been duly lodged and admitted.

Re John Hughes, Cardiff, Chemist and Druggist.—Debtor came up for public examination at the Cardiff Bankruptcy Court on June 10. In answer to the Official Receiver (Mr. Geo. David), he stated that he commenced business in Ordell Street in 1887 with a capital of 50*l*. Ten years ago he opened a branch in Splott Road, which he continued up to the time of filing his petition. He discontinued the Ordell Street business four or five years ago. Just before that time he bought another business in Portmanmoor Road, about half a mile from his Splott Road shop. He looked after the latter business himself, but appointed a manager for each of the other two branches. His bank allowed him an overdraft of about 140*l*., otherwise he would not have met his debts as they became due. He purchased some premises in Carlisle Street for 300*l*., in which he went to reside. He obtained a mortgage on the property for 240*l*., and the balance of 60*l*. he took out of his business. The mortgage a short time ago issued a writ against him, and that caused him to file his petition. Part of his deficiency was due to the illness of his wife. Mr. Willett, on behalf of the debtor, applied that the examination be closed, and the application was granted.

Re William Alfred McCarthy, late of 84 West Green Road, Tottenham, and 50 High Street, Grays, Chemist and Druggist.—The public examination was opened at the Edmonton Bankruptcy Court on June 10. Full particulars of the financial condition of the estate were given in the *C. & D.*, June 8, index folio 832. Owing to the excitable manner in which he gave his evidence, the debtor was more than once reproved, and once the Official Receiver (Mr. Cecil Mercer) threatened to have the case adjourned so that it could go before the Judge. Debtor said that three weeks ago he went to Boulogne, where he is now staying with his wife and two children at the Hôtel Bedford. He suffered from insomnia, and went there because he could sleep only at the seaside. For the last two years that he was at Grays he could sleep for an hour at a time only, but had not had a full night's sleep. He intended to remain in France, but not at Boulogne. His wife paid with the money received from the sale of the furniture at Grays. She was the daughter of a chemist at Nice, in whose employ debtor was. Her father was dead, and he left her roughly about 1,700*l*., another daughter and brother having the same amount. The furniture was bought in 1903 from the Hackney Furnishing Co., and about 268*l*. was paid for it under a hire-purchase agreement, which he admitted was, he believed, in his name. When he left Nice on his honeymoon he had about 130*l*., but on the way to Monte Carlo he had 80*l*. stolen. The remainder was spent at Genoa. Debtor then gave particulars of his business at Grays as reported in our last issue, and the Official Receiver questioned him in regard to his financial transactions with his sister-in-law, and not calling a meeting of his creditors before he gave the deed of assignment. As to the latter, debtor said that he did not understand anything at all about it. On the application of the Official Receiver, the examination was adjourned.

DEED OF ARRANGEMENT.

Butcher, Arthur Richard, 173 Cambridge Road, St. Helens, Lancs, Drysalter and Druggist.—Trustee: P. S. Booth, 2 Bixteth Street, Liverpool. Dated, June 5; filed, June 6. Liabilities unsecured, 112*l*.; estimated net assets, 80*l*.. The creditors include Blyton, Astley & Co., Manchester (3*l*.); Potter & Clarke, Ltd., Manchester (18*l*.).

DR. H. H. RUSBY, Dean of New York College of Pharmacy, is contemplating the establishment with Dr. George A. Ferguson of a laboratory at 121 West Forty-second Street, New York.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

G. CHEETHAMS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,250*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalters, oil and colour men, etc., to acquire the business carried on 67 Eastgate, Louth, Lincs, as G. Cheetham, and to adopt an agreement with E. G. Cheetham. The first directors are E. G. Cheetham, P. Cheetham, and G. E. Pegg.

CLEAVE & CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of wholesale and retail chemists and druggists, grocers, mineral-water manufacturers, and general storekeepers. The subscribers are A. H. Solomon, wholesale druggist, and T. W. Cleave, chemist and druggist. R.O., 121 High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W.

JOHN DOWELL & SONS, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 30,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on at the Globe Works, Chatsworth Road, N.E., by John Dowell, and to carry on the same and the business of chemists, druggists, sundriesmen, manufacturers of and dealers in medicinal and other preparations, articles and compounds, soap, oil, scent and toilet articles, dealers in bottles, glass, china and tin ware, rubber goods, and surgical instruments, etc. J. Dowell is governing director for life. R.O., Globe Works, Chatsworth Road, Clapton Park, N.E.

Company News.

G. B. KENT & SONS, LTD.—The directors have declared the usual dividend on the preference shares for the half-year ended March 31 at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT CO., LTD.—The forty-seventh ordinary meeting of shareholders was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on June 10. Mr. C. E. Gunther (chairman), who presided, said that the prolonged drought last season in the River Plate district had resulted in a scarcity of fat cattle and yields below the average. The company's estancias had proved of immense benefit in maintaining a more or less regular slaughter and supply to the factories. Notwithstanding the drought, the profit on the year's working amounted to 213,335*l*., as against 221,743*l*. in the previous year. The land acquired in Southern Rhodesia had been further developed, and the cattle so far are doing well. The sales of the company's concentrated foods had continued to expand, Oxo especially having shown a very substantial increase. The report and accounts (*C. & D.*, June 1, index folio 804) were unanimously adopted. Mr. C. E. Gunther and Mr. Maurice Glyn, the retiring directors, were re-elected.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (EASTERN), LTD.—The report for the year ended March 31 states that the net profit is 25,236*l*., against 24,849*l*. in the previous year. To this has to be added 11,101*l*., balance brought forward from last year, making an available total of 36,337*l*. After additions to the various reserves and contingency funds, and on bringing the managers' provident fund (including interest) up to 21,000*l*., a balance of 12,369*l*. is carried forward. It is proposed to confirm dividends already paid—viz., on preference shares, 6 per cent. (6,000*l*.); on second preference shares, 5 per cent. (5,000*l*.); on ordinary shares, 12 per cent., free of income-tax (9,600*l*.)—to add 1,000*l*. to freehold reserve; to carry to contingency fund 1,270*l*. (making 8,000*l*.); to allocate 100*l*. to medical charities; to add to branch managers' (chemists') provident fund 246*l*. (making a total of 21,000*l*.); to pay 750*l*. for management expenses for the year, including managing director's remuneration and directors' fees (free of tax); and to carry forward 12,369*l*.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. H. F. FRENCH has opened a cash drug-store at 5 The Parade, Dagenham, Essex.

MR. E. J. BLAKER, late of East Liss, Hants, has opened a pharmacy at Electra Buildings, Haslemere, Surrey.

MR. W. WOLSTENHOLME, chemist and druggist, has given up his business at Woodhouse, near Sheffield, in order to devote his whole time to the business of the United Chemists' Association, Ltd., in their new premises at Cheltenham. Mr. Wolstenholme had been for some time assisting the Association in Sheffield.

BIRTH.

CROFTS.—At Rose Villas, Whitefield Road, Stockton Heath, Cheshire, on June 5, the wife of J. H. Crofts, chemist and druggist, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CRANE—VAN DUZER.—At St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, S.W., on June 4, by the Rev. W. S. Swayne, M.A., Captain Robert E. Crane, son of Mr. R. Newton Crane, barrister-at-law, of 200 Brompton Road, S.W., to Aline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Van Duzer, 43 Stanhope Gardens, S.W.

DUNCAN—LUND.—At the Congregational Chapel, Felling, on June 5, Mr. James Duncan, director of Messrs. Ayrton, Saunders & Co., Ltd., Liverpool, and their North of England representative, to Edith, youngest daughter of Mr. P. Lund, Belgrave Terrace, Newcastle.

MORROW—BROWN.—At St. Peter's, Belfast, on June 4, by the Rev. H. R. Brett, M.A., Robert Morrow, Ph.C., 25 Corn Market, Belfast, third son of Edmund Morrow, Longfield, Glenam, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Edwin Brown, Drogheda.

WOODHOUSE—SHARP.—At St. Lawrence's Parish Church, Ludlow (Salop), on June 4, G. Stanley Woodhouse, second son of Councillor Geo. Woodhouse, chemist and druggist, 45 Bull Ring, a former Mayor of Ludlow, to Ellen Lee, younger daughter of Alderman W. E. Sharp, Castle Lodge, Ludlow.

DEATHS.

ABERNETHY.—At Lismoyny, Ormiston Park, Knock, on June 5, Mr. Campbell Blakely Abernethy, R.D., aged seventy-five. He served his apprenticeship with Wm. Dobbin & Co., North Street, Belfast, where he was for many years. He was subsequently with Messrs. Hillocks in Armagh for a short time, and eventually entered the service of Thos. McMullan & Co., Belfast, with whom he was for twenty-three years. Twenty years ago he started business in the Albertbridge Road, trading as C. B. Abernethy & Sons, his two sons assisting him in the business.

CONROY.—On June 4, suddenly, at Dalky, co. Dublin, Geraldine, widow of Michael Conroy.

DOIG.—At Struan Place, Newport-on-Tay, on June 8, Elsie, daughter of Mr. John L. Doig, chemist and druggist, aged eighteen.

GASS.—At "Sunnyside," Whitehaven, on June 2, Betty, wife of Mr. Walter Herbert Gass, pharmacist, 12 King Street, Whitehaven, aged forty-three.

KILPATRICK.—At 56 Morshead Mansions, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London, W., on June 5, Mr. Robert Kilpatrick, chemist and druggist, head dispenser for Messrs. Savory & Moore, Ltd., 143 New Bond Street, W., aged forty-five.

KING.—On May 28, Martha, wife of Mr. W. B. King, chemist and druggist, of High Street, Sutton, Surrey, aged forty-three.

McMILLAN.—At Benvaren, Carrick Road, Ayr, on June 8, Mr. James McMillan McMillan, M.B., Ch.B., second son of Mr. James M. McMillan, chemist, Ayr, aged twenty-six.

SEGNIETZ.—At Kissingen, on June 9, suddenly, from blood-poisoning, Mr. Adolph Segnitz, senior partner of Messrs. Rösing Bros. & Co., South American merchants, 10 Basinghall Street, London, E.C., aged fifty-six. Messrs. Rösing are well known to the drug-trade as importers of sarsaparilla, ipecacuanha, coca-leaves, and other South American drugs. They were among the largest importers of Peruvian cinchonas at a time when handsome profits were made, and previous, of course, to the swamping of the markets by Java bark. Crude cocaine (the bulk of which now goes to Hamburg) was also first brought to London by this firm.

SMITH.—On June 9, Mr. Tenison Smith, chemist and druggist, for many years in business in Ryde, Isle of Wight. Mr. Smith had been in failing health for some time.

WILLS PROVEN.

MR. JOHN STRACHAN CHREE, chemist and druggist, 53 London Road, Reigate, who died intestate on March 13, left estate valued at 877l. 9s. gross.

MR. FRANCIS WILLIAM ROSE, retired chemist, Chipping Norton, who died on April 15, aged eighty-two, left estate valued at 755l. 0s. 1d. gross, with net personalty 203l. 6s. 4d.

MR. THOMAS WRIGHT, Ph.C., 48 Victoria Park, Chesterton, Cambs, who died on April 22, left estate valued at 1,275l. 14s. 5d. gross, of which 997l. 15s. 11d. is net personalty.

MR. EDWARD NEWTON HANCOCK, chemist and druggist, 10 Bartholomew Terrace, Exeter, who died on April 24, left estate of the gross value of 5,873l., of which 3,949l. is net personalty.

MR. JAMES READ, chemist and druggist, Petersfinger, Salisbury, who died on April 30, left estate of the gross value of 17,394l. 1s. 5d., of which the net personalty has been sworn at 13,906l. 8s. Probate of his will has been granted to his daughter, Mrs. Sarah Maton Orchard, and his son-in-law, Edwin John Orchard, chemist, both of Shady Bower, Salisbury. The testator left 50l. to his son-in-law, Edwin John Orchard.

TRADE NOTES.

DURING the summer months (from June 1 to September 30) Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool, are closing their offices and warehouses at 5.30 P.M. on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, and on Saturdays at 12.30 P.M., and starting work earlier in the morning. So far this arrangement is working exceedingly well.

MORE AWARDS.—At the International Red Cross Conference at Washington, Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, London, E.C., secured for "Tabloid" bandages and dressings the only award in the special class for methods of packing dressings. The jury consisted entirely of Russian and other Continental judges.

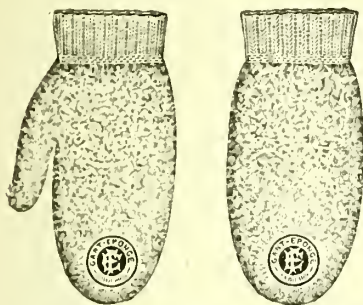
KRUSCHEN SALTS.—A striking advertisement is inserted in this issue by Mr. E. Griffiths Hughes, 17 Deansgate, Manchester, regarding the growth of the sales of Kruschen salts from 1905 to 1911. A mountain range, with its peaks towering upwards from left to right, is a graphic representation of a statistical fact. The sale being still on the increase, this proprietary article is a suitable line for retailers to keep well in front of the public.

POSTAL BOX.—An ingenious self-locking postal box has been produced by Messrs. Eeles, Walker & Co., Hockley Works, 115 to 118 Pitsford Street, Birmingham, which is especially adapted for chemists' use. When the tab at the end is placed in position it is impossible to open the package without cutting across the tab. The advantage of the method is that time is saved, a safely fastened package is produced, and no string or sealing-wax is required.

BARIUM SULPHATE for x-ray diagnosis of oesophageal and gastric ailments is now made by E. Merck, of Darmstadt. It is extra pure and free from soluble salts of barium. The sulphate is taking the place of bismuth salts, which sometimes induce undesirable symptoms. The firm inform us that a barium meal suitable for examination of the stomach and intestines by x-rays is prepared by boiling a mixture of 5 oz. of barium sulphate, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of monodamin, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of sugar, and $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of cocoa with 18 oz. of water.

HARRISON'S NURSERY AND TOILET-SOAP.—The success which has attended Harrison's "Reliable" Nursery Pomade has made the name of Mr. G. W. Harrison, of Reading, familiar to the British drug-trade. Mr. Harrison has followed his first success with others, including several preparations for the hair and toilet, and the latest is an excellent nursery and toilet-soap, "delicately perfumed and medicated with coal-tar," which is dainty, and is put up in boxes of three tablets to retail on P.A.T.A. terms at face value—4d. per tablet and 1s. per box.

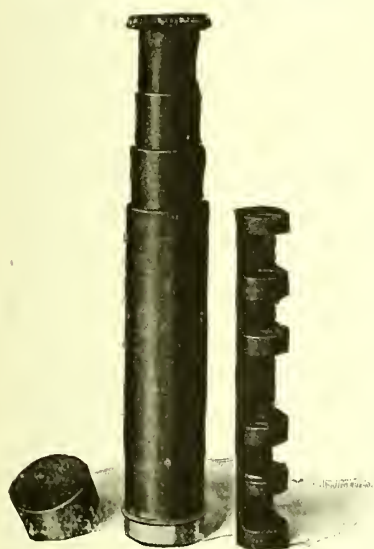
THE "E.F." BATH GLOVES for which Messrs. Solport Bros., 188 and 190 Goswell Road, London, E.C., are sole



consignees for the United Kingdom and the British Colonies, differ from the ordinary type in being seamless. Each glove is knitted individually and resembles the usual Turkish towelling glove in all respects except that it is far more durable. There are two patterns, E. F. 505, without thumb, and E. F. 506, with thumb, as shown in the illustration. Particulars of prices will be found in the advertisement columns of this issue.

A VITAFER CAMPAIGN.—Vitafer, the new tonic food brought out by Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay, Ltd., Lower Priory, Birmingham, is the subject of an advertising campaign which commences this week. A mammoth circular giving particulars of this has been posted to all chemists in business in the United Kingdom. The circular reproduces some of the advertisements which are being used in the medical and lay Press and which are likely to increase considerably the demand for the food, while there are also set out the terms of supply and particulars of advertising aids for counter and window display. Among the methods of assisting the sale is a system of co-operation with pharmacists in writing to and sending out samples to local medical men. It may not be amiss to remind our readers that this is a casein food containing inorganic salts (chiefly calcium phosphate) 4 per cent., calcium glycerophosphate 2.2 per cent., magnesium glycerophosphate 2.2 per cent., and sodium glycerophosphate 1.1 per cent. The distinguishing features claimed for it are its tastelessness, absence of tendency to constipate, moderate cost, and protected price. More than 3,000 chemists already stock the food.

THE MICRO-TELESCOPE, which has been introduced by Messrs. Raphael's, Ltd., manufacturing opticians, Hatton



Garden, London, E.C., is a little instrument with a future. It can be used as a telescope, microscope, or short distance glass. As the instrument stands it is a telescope with three draw tubes and when closed measures $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. By unscrewing and removing the eyepiece the optical system, consisting of four lenses and in the form of an inner tube, can be removed, and it is this part which, used separately, forms the micro-cope. The short distance glass is arranged by removing the eye-piece from the telescope and partly withdrawing the inner tube containing the lens system. The instrument is one which should recommend itself to naturalists or those who are fond of outdoor life; a country walk is made more interesting when those features not readily distinguishable by the naked eye are made plain. The micro-telescope retails at 9s., or 10s. 6d. in leather case.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. DAVID HOWARD, J.P., has been elected Treasurer of the Essex Field Club.

MR. H. G. BEVILAQUA, of Narracoorte, South Australia, left London by the P. & O. s.s. *Mongolia* on Friday, June 14.

MR. A. S. BIRNIE has resigned his position as London manager to Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan & Co., with whom he had been connected in various capacities for eighteen years.

MR. JOHN C. UMNEY, F.C.S., has agreed to publish the Fairchild lectures on Essential Oils as a special number of the "Perfumery and Essential Oil Record," the Publication Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society, under whose aegis the lectures have been given, finding themselves unable to print the lectures officially as was originally intended.

SIX CHEMISTS came by the R.M.S. *Edinburgh Castle* from South Africa a fortnight since. This is a photograph of them taken on board. The names, reading from



left to right, are Mr. Astell Wilson (Hewletts); Mr. Blair, of Krugersdorp; Mr. R. H. Pimm, of Kimberley; Mr. Hopper, of Mafeking; Mr. Sowden, of Rondebosch; and Mr. Scaife, of Cape Town.

MR. LOUIS K. LIGGETT, President of the United Drug Co., Boston, U.S.A., in an interview with the "Pharmaceutical Era" about his recent visit to this country, said:

"There are four different classes of drug-stores in England. First is the chemist, as he is called, numbering about 11,000, who are members of the pharmaceutical societies, and who alone have the power to dispense poisons. Then come about 5,000 drug-stores, which may dispense everything except poisons. And the poison laws in Great Britain, by the way, are much stricter than they are in this country. Then come about 20,000 other stores licensed to vend patent medicines, and this number includes hucksters, small grocers, co-operative stores, and others of this class. The fourth class, which is by no means the least important, is the incorporated chain stores, numbering two to three thousand stores. The chemist in England is a man who has stood for all that is good in the development of ethical pharmacy. He has worked very close to the physician in the past, and a great many of them will continue to do so in the future. They are by reason of their education naturally ethical. He must work a long time and is hard driven at school to get his diploma or certificate of fitness, and the British chemists appeared to me to be, as a body, better grounded in pharmacy than our chemists here. But the problems confronting them there are the same as those confronting us here—that the drug business as such is deteriorating."

Mr. Liggett's estimate of the number of drug-stores is topically interesting, in view of the patent-medicine inquiry which is showing how numerous are the chemists' competitors, but not half of their shops deserve to be called "drug-stores." It may be recalled that Mr. Liggett came here on a prospecting tour, and he told the interviewer "that if any American company expects to succeed in England and develop its business they had better start in playing the piccolo rather than a brass band"—a neat thing for the pharmaceutical Sousa to say.

National Health Insurance.

House of Lords and the Act.

The Insurance Act, and the necessity for postponing its operation, was discussed in the House of Lords on Wednesday, June 12, on a motion by Lord Heneage. Lord Camperdown said the people of the country were in a state of perplexity and bewilderment, and before an agreement was arrived at with the doctors Mr. Lloyd George would have to eat a good deal more of the Welsh national vegetable.—Lord Crewe said no sufficient grounds had been shown for postponing the Act.—Lord Lansdowne said the doctors had been alternately cajoled and intimidated.—The Lord Chancellor (Viscount Haldane of Colne, F.R.S., who has succeeded Lord Loreburn this week) said the Government recognised the extreme desirability of getting the doctors to co-operate in a cordial spirit and delicate negotiations were at the moment in progress.—The motion was negatived without a division.

Payment of Doctors.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, accompanied by Mr. Masterman, Sir Robert Morant, and certain members of the English, Scottish, and Welsh Commissions, received on Friday, June 7, a deputation of the members of the State Sickness Insurance Committee of the British Medical Association, who desired to learn the views of the Government in regard to the minimum demands of the profession as formulated in the letter of the Association of February 29 last. For convenience we repeat the demands referred to:

1. An income-limit of 2*l.* a week for those entitled to medical benefit.
2. Free choice of doctor by patient, subject to consent of doctor to act.

3. Medical and maternity benefits to be administered by Insurance Committees and not by friendly societies. In connection with the question of the method of administration of medical benefit, the representative meeting resolved that all questions of professional discipline should be decided exclusively by a body or bodies of medical practitioners, and that the power of considering all complaints against medical practitioners should be vested in the local Medical Committee, with a right of appeal to a central Medical Board to be appointed for that purpose.

4. The method of remuneration of medical practitioners adopted by each Insurance Committee to be according to the preference of the majority of the medical profession of the district of that committee.

5. Medical remuneration to be what the profession considers adequate, having due regard to the duties to be performed and other conditions of service.

After careful consideration the representative meeting resolved that the policy of the Association be to claim 8*s.* 6*d.* as a minimum capitation fee, not including extras and medicine, for members of approved societies, and to claim the recognition of payment per attendance, in which case the fees must be on such a basis as shall be deemed an equivalent by the State Sickness Insurance Committee, with recognition of a 2*l.* maximum income limit.

6. Adequate medical representation among the Insurance Commissioners, in the Central Advisory Committee, and in the Insurance Committees, and statutory recognition of a local Medical Committee representative of the profession in the district of each Insurance Committee.

At the request of the Chancellor, the members of the deputation elaborated and defined the demands, and in the course of the discussion the Chancellor found himself able at once to state that on several of these points the Act and the regulations to be made under it would secure the objects which the profession had in view, while on others further discussion would be necessary. On the important point of the amount of remuneration for medical services under the Act, the Chancellor pointed out that the Government had acted on the information available to them in framing their original estimates, and that, when challenging that estimate as inadequate, and demanding a rate of remuneration of "8*s.* 6*d.* as a minimum capitation fee not including extras and medicine," the representatives of the profession might reasonably be expected by the Government to furnish the facts and figures on which they based this higher demand.

Mr. Lloyd George again conferred with representatives

on June 12, when the doctors' basis for remuneration was considered. The matter is now under consideration, and rumours of a settlement are revived, says "The Times," the latest rumour being that a settlement may be arrived at on the basis of an 8*s.* 6*d.* capitation fee which shall include the provision of drugs. But the rumours must be received with as much reserve as was the one about the Chancellor's offer to pay the doctors 10*s.* a head as long as their patients are well, deducting 1*s.* for each week that they receive sick pay.

Pharmacists and the Act.

We learn that the representatives of pharmacists met the Insurance Commissioners on Friday, June 7, in regard to the arrangements to be made for dispensing medicines in accordance with Section 15, Sub-section 5 of the Act, and it is understood that the pharmaceutical representatives are well satisfied with the results. It is also regarded as particularly gratifying that the two great points, as to which it was not possible to get express Parliamentary sanction—namely, the representation of pharmacists on the Advisory Committees and on the Insurance Committees—have now been secured through the Insurance Commissioners, nominations having been arranged for the Provisional Committees.

A deputation consisting of Mr. J. Hinton Lake and Mr. H. Wippell Gadd waited upon Mr. H. E. Duke, K.C., Member of Parliament for Exeter, on June 8, asking him to support the nomination of Mr. P. F. Rowsell, by the pharmacists of Exeter, for appointment by the Insurance Commissioners upon the local insurance committee. Mr. Duke most favourably received the suggestion, and expressed the opinion that it was essential that such an important body as the pharmacists should be represented, as their interests were directly at stake. He wrote forthwith to Mr. C. F. G. Masterman, M.P., the Chairman of the Joint Board of Commissioners, and promised to follow this up with a personal interview.

At a special meeting the Council of the Exeter Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution recommending the Town Council in nominating members of the local committee to appoint at least one qualified chemist and druggist. The Secretary of the Exeter Association of Pharmacists has also written to the Sanitary Committee, but the list of names of the provisional insurance committee recommended does not include the name of any chemist.

A special meeting was held on June 12 of the North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association at Blackburn, when a resolution was passed urging the Blackburn Town Council to reconsider the constitution of the committee charged with the administration of the National Insurance Act. It was submitted that practising pharmacists should be represented, and it was requested that the Corporation be asked to receive a deputation. Mr. W. Grimshaw regretted that the strenuous endeavours to obtain representation on the Provisional Committee had been futile. None of the committee appointed are men who could read a doctor's prescription, let alone check the dispensing of prescriptions, which would constitute the committee's greatest work. Mr. Lord Gifford declared that the Pharmaceutical Council had dealt with the National Insurance Act in fair and reasonable spirit altogether apart from party feelings, and the Council had compromised an important matter to secure a practical issue. Having got recognition, chemists now desired representation to assist in working the Act successfully. The administration problem was extremely difficult, yet the Blackburn committee as appointed possessed no one who understood anything about the most important work such committee would be called upon to execute.

On Wednesday evening, June 5, the chemists' assistants and wholesale employes of Manchester, Salford, and district met at the Clarion Café, Market Street, under the chairmanship of Mr. James Grier, M.Sc. (President of the local Chemists' Assistants' Association), to consider their position under the National Insurance Act, and decide upon a common course of action. The meeting was attended by about ninety-five. The Chairman sketched the history of the chemists' assistants' organisation, and

explained the requirements under the National Insurance Act, also that many societies would be glad to have them as members, notably the Chemists' Friendly Society and the National Union of Shop Assistants, as well as the regular insurance companies, such as the Prudential. He gave particular of the first-named Society, saying that the advantages of an approved society composed of members of their own trade would be quite obvious: care in the selection of lives, special consideration for their own particular needs, and a share in the management. Mr. Woodcock having explained that his action at the recent joint meeting in proposing his "non-committal" amendment to the resolution pledging them to support the Chemists' Friendly Society was not on account of any antipathy to the C.F.S., Mr. Fullerton made an appeal on behalf of the Shop Assistants' Union, mentioning the services of this body in regard to the Shops Act, the "living-in" system, and other matters for the benefit of assistants. If chemists' assistants considered that their interests were not exactly the same as those of the grocer, the draper, and of other tradesmen, there was no reason why they should not have a section to themselves in the Shop Assistants' Union, in which special consideration should be given to their particular requirements. Mr. Doran criticised the Act severely and warned the meeting to be careful in selecting their society, and to estimate at their proper value the allurements held out. Considerable discussion ensued upon matters of detail, in which Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Craig, and Mr. Robertson took part. Mr. Woodcock proposed:

"That this meeting of wholesale and retail chemists' employes agrees to support the Chemists' Friendly Society of Glasgow by, as far as possible, joining the Society for the purposes of the National Insurance Act."

This was seconded by Mr. Dickinson. An amendment by Mr. Philip Sternberg to substitute the words "National Union of Shop Assistants" for "Chemists' Friendly Society" having been defeated by a large majority, Mr. Woodcock's resolution was put and carried by 50 for and 4 against. Mr. Chadwick then proposed:

"That this meeting agrees to co-operate with the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association in forming a joint Local Committee with equal representation for employers and assistants."

This was seconded by Mr. Lawton. Mr. Robertson suggested as an amendment, "that the committee consist of assistants *only*," which Mr. Sternberg seconded; but Mr. Chadwick's motion was carried by 51 votes to 6 against.

This concluded the business of a highly successful meeting. Proposal forms for both the Chemists' Friendly Society and the National Union of Shop Assistants were handed round. Those who were prevented from being present are requested to send their names and addresses to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. J. Woodcock, 34 Furness Road, Fallowfield, Manchester. A meeting is to be held soon for the purpose of forming a committee to work with headquarters in Glasgow.

The Stamps

required for National Health Insurance have now been prepared by the Board of Inland Revenue and will shortly be issued. The stamps are somewhat smaller than the ordinary postage stamps and are oblong in shape, measuring (printed surface) 0.825 in. by 0.6125 in. wide. The Unemployment Insurance stamps are different in design and have the longer side horizontal. The stamps are surface printed, the six denominations which will be most in demand being in a single colour, and the others bi-coloured, the ground of the shield bearing the second colour. The denominations and colours are:



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1½d. Brown and green. | 0s. 5½d. Orange. |
| 2d. Brown and blue. | 0s. 5½d. Mauve. |
| 2½d. Brown and magenta. | 0s. 6d. Deep blue. |
| 5d. Green and mauve. | 0s. 7d. Magenta. |
| 3½d. Claret and black. | 1s. 0d. Claret and green. |
| 4d. Claret and orange. | 1s. 2d. Yellow. |
| 4½d. Pale blue. | |

The issue of higher-value stamps is under consideration in connection with the scheme whereby employers will be allowed under certain conditions to deposit with the Insurance Commissioners, either quarterly in advance or by weekly instalments, a sum sufficient to cover the contributions due for the quarter, the stamping of the contribution cards by the employer being deferred until the end of the quarter.

Approved Societies.

The Insurance Commissioners have issued a first list of approved societies which intend to carry on business under the National Insurance Act. The list is divided into those societies intending to do business in more than one part of the United Kingdom which have been approved by the Joint Committee of the four Commissions, and those limiting their business to one of the four parts of the United Kingdom which have been approved by the English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh Commissions respectively. A few societies are included in a supplementary list whose draft rules have been settled with the Commission but still await formal adoption by the societies. These include the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants and the National Union of Clerks. The present membership of the friendly and other societies which give sick benefit, and the trade unions, in these lists (including members who may not be insured persons under the Act) is approximately 5,000,000.

A Useful Table.

"THE NATIONAL INSURANCE WEEKLY" has appeared this week, and is published at 1d. We quote the following table from it:

THE WEEKLY PAYMENTS.

| CLASSES | England, Scotland and Wales | | Ireland | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| | Employer | Employé | Employer | Employé |
| MEN | Pence | Pence | Pence | Pence |
| Ordinary contributions ... | 3 | 4 | 2½ | 3 |
| Where employer guarantees to pay full wages during first six weeks of illness in any year | 2 | 3 | 1½ | 2 |
| Persons age 21 or upwards (not receiving board and lodging) whose earnings do not exceed 1s. 6d. a day ... | 6 | 0 | 4½ | 0 |
| Ditto, whose earnings exceed 1s. 6d. but not 2s. a day .. | 5 | 1 | 4 | ½ |
| Ditto, whose earnings exceed 2s. but not 2s. 6d. a day .. | 4 | 3 | 5½ | 2 |
| WOMEN | | | | |
| Ordinary contributions ... | 3 | 3 | 2½ | 2 |
| Where employer guarantees to pay full wages during first six weeks of illness in any year | 2½ | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Persons age 21 or upwards (not receiving board and lodging) whose earnings do not exceed 1s. 6d. a day ... | 5 | 0 | 3½ | 0 |
| Ditto, whose earnings exceed 1s. 6d. but not 2s. a day .. | 4 | 1 | 3 | ½ |
| Ditto, whose earnings exceed 2s. but not 2s. 6d. a day .. | 3 | 3 | 2½ | 2 |

An experimental olive-oil factory is being established at Porto Maurizio, Italian Riviera, on the proposal of the Director-General for Agriculture, with a view to studying the best means to diffuse and prepare, purify and preserve the olive-oil produce of this region. The Director-General will aid the people with advice as to the best means to make the oil pure and durable, and to this end an annual sum of 9,000 lire (360l.) is granted, extending over a probationary period of five years.

General Medical Council.

IN continuing our report of the summer meeting of the Council held in the offices, Oxford Street, London, W., it may be recalled that the business of Tuesday and Wednesday, June 4 and 5, has already been dealt with. The discussion on the

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

adjourned from Wednesday, was the first business taken on Thursday. The recommendation that the Council adhere to its refusal to re-schedule the Preliminary examination of the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland brought up one of Dr. Adye-Curran's outbursts of eloquence. The Hall, he fiercely declared, was made the target for anyone to shoot at session after session, and the refusal to recognise its examination while that of the Royal College of Physicians is, would be doing it a grave injury and injustice. The President (Sir Donald MacAlister) and Dr. Norman Moore explained that the Council had done its utmost for years past to induce qualifying bodies to give up their own Preliminary examinations, and with success. The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is the one exception, and that is allowed for local reasons and for a particular purpose. The Apothecaries' Hall had recently reconstituted their examination; that was quite within their powers, but that it should be recognised not only by their own licentiates, but by all the bodies in the kingdom was more than the Council could admit, and would be going back on their consistent policy. With regard to the mandate under the Act for their examination on which Dr. Adye-Curran laid stress, Sir C. Nixon asked why they had dropped it; and Sir John Moore remarked that this Act of 1791 was passed for the purpose of providing the country with pharmacists and to prevent his Majesty from being poisoned. The recommendation was agreed to.

PENAL CASES.

Darabshaw Fardoonji Sanjana, L.R.C.P. & S.E., L.F.P.S.G., Kelty, Fife, was summoned to appear before the Council on the charge of having employed as his assistant an unqualified person named D. Drysdale, and knowingly allowed him to attend and prescribe for patients and take fees for so doing, and on a number of Saturday afternoons to finish the rounds, attend the surgery, and take any fresh cases during the doctor's absence in Edinburgh; and to sign medical certificates of various kinds for sick allowance and in respect of workmen's compensation. The complainants were the British Medical Association, represented by Dr. Alfred Cox. Mr. Macbeth appeared for the defence. The case was fully gone into by the Council, and after deliberation in camera the President announced the decision of the Council as follows:

Mr. Sanjana, I have to inform you that the Council have deliberated on your case, and have found that certain of the facts alleged against you in the notice of inquiry have been proved to their satisfaction, and in particular that you have—

"(1) Knowingly authorised or allowed D. Drysdale at various times while in your employment at Kelty, Fife, as your assistant, to attend patients, and on a number of Saturday afternoons to finish your rounds, and attend the surgery during your absence on such afternoons in Edinburgh; and that you have

"(2) Knowingly authorised or allowed the said D. Drysdale to attend and examine certain patients for you, and to sign for you medical certificates of various kinds."

The Council take a serious view of the facts thus found to be proved against you; but, in order to give you an opportunity of showing that your professional conduct is henceforth to be without reproach, they have postponed judgment on the facts as found until the November Session of the Council. At that Session you will be required to attend, and you should then produce evidence regarding your professional conduct testified to by medical practitioners and other persons of position who may be acquainted with your practice and conduct in the interval.

John Jeeves, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 163 Cemetery Road, Sheffield, was charged with having on numerous occasions assisted a certain Leo Patrick Barry, of 402 London

Road, Sheffield, not registered as a dentist, by administering anaesthetics on his behalf. Mr. Turner appeared for the complainants, the British Dental Association; Mr. Jeeves was unaccompanied. He appeared to feel his position acutely, had little to say except to express his deep contrition and to promise that the offence should not occur again. No one had been more surprised than himself to find that Barry was not qualified; he had taken the practice from a registered dentist, had styled himself a "member of the Dental Association," and had a good-class practice. The Council spent half an hour in camera; then the President addressed Mr. Jeeves as follows:

Mr. Jeeves, I have to inform you that the Council has found that the facts alleged against you have been proved to its satisfaction. The Council is of opinion that it is the duty of a registered medical practitioner to ascertain that an operator is a duly registered dentist before administering anaesthetics for him. The Council takes a very grave view of the action of practitioners who administer anaesthetics for unregistered persons. It has, however, adjourned the further consideration of your case till the November Session, when you will be required to produce evidence, satisfactory to the Council, as to your professional conduct in the interval.

EXAMINATION MATTERS.

It was agreed that the following recommendation should be added to the Council's resolutions relating to professional education:

"That six months' instruction or more in the Preliminary sciences at a teaching institution (other than a medical school) recognised by one of the licensing bodies and approved by the Council may count as six months, and no more, of the curriculum of professional study, provided such instruction is subsequent to the date of passing the required Preliminary examination in general education."

It was also agreed to change the term "Therapeutics" in the list of professional subjects to "Pharmacology and Therapeutics," and to add "Anaesthetics" to the subjects.

A long discussion took place on the report of the Education Committee as to standard of Preliminary examinations required. Dr. Saundby deplored the discreditable illiteracy of medical students, and felt the fallibility of examination tests. He thought the report made more formal than real changes, and moved that it be referred back to the committee. He was supported by Dr. Norman Moore, who declared that examinations are ruining secondary education in England, and that it is undesirable that the Council should make minute requirements at present in the face of the coming inquiry into secondary schools by the Board of Education. Dr. Knox and Sir C. Nixon urged that in the meantime the Council's requirements should go forth for the guidance of other bodies; it was the business of the Council to provide a standard of preliminary education. The President said that they all agreed that the present state of secondary education in England is chaotic. He hoped that the time would come when some sort of leaving certificate would be established, as is already done in Scotland. The report was carried.

THE REPORT OF THE PHARMACOPOEIA COMMITTEE

was rushed in just as the Council adjourned:

From November 20, 1911, to May 31, 1912, the number of copies of the British Pharmacopoeia (1898) sold by the publishers was 441. The total number of copies sold in the year beginning May 21, 1911, was 1,002; the annual average demand is therefore maintained. Up to the present time 44,015 copies of the Pharmacopoeia and 4,516 copies of the Indian and Colonial Addendum have been sold. The stock of the Pharmacopoeia now in hand numbers 998 copies; it will probably suffice to meet the demand during the next twelve months.

Dr. Tirard and Professor Greenish, as editors, have prepared for the committee a first draft of the monographs or tinctures, etc., and on materia medica for the new issue. The manuscript will be considered at special meetings during the summer.

A Committee of Reference in Botany, consisting of Lieut.-Colonel Frain, C.B., and Mr. E. M. Holmes, and a Committee of Reference in Chemistry, consisting of Sir T. E. Thorpe, C.B., and Professor J. J. Dobbie, have been appointed for purposes of consultation with regard to botanical and chemical questions respectively.

FINAL SITTING.

As the Council was unable to finish its business, as was anticipated on Friday, the unusual step was taken to meet at 10.30 on Saturday morning. The question of the admission of Indian diplomats to examination for British qualifications was considered, and it was decided to refuse recognition to the first, second, and third examinations in the absence of satisfactory evidence of the standard required. The President remarked that there are at present five grades of medical practice in India—the L.L.S., which denotes a five years' curriculum and is recognised in England, and the L.L.S. four years' curriculum; L.M.S., granted for military purposes, and two subordinate grades of hospital assistants, all of which are not recognised. A motion by Dr. Caton that in the face of the protests from Edinburgh, Sheffield, and Liverpool Universities no further additions be made to the recognised teaching institutions of the Council till the Council has had the experience of some years regarding the effect of those already recognised, was after an animated discussion agreed to.

The Council finished its business in time for luncheon.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

PAYMENT OF JURORS.

The Home Secretary has informed Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., that legislation would be necessary for carrying out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on Coroners' Courts, and he is afraid he cannot undertake at present to propose legislation on the subject. The hon. member had asked particularly as to the Committee's recommendation with regard to the payment for the service of jurors.

CHEMISTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

Mr. Frederick Whyte asked the Secretary to the Treasury, in the House of Commons on Monday, June 10, (1) whether any authorised public statement has been made regarding the position of chemists as purveyors of medical supplies under the National Insurance Act; (2) whether a chemist who is not a member of any local association of pharmacists can have his name placed upon the panel of recognised chemists for the purposes of the Act; and, if not, (3) whether the authorities responsible for the administration of the National Insurance Act will make arrangements only through such associations.—Mr. Masterman replied that the answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and to the second part in the affirmative. The third does not, therefore, arise.

DRUGS AND THE POOR LAW.

Mr. Raffan asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the House of Commons on Monday, June 10, whether he is aware that the amount of Exchequer contributions to Boards of Guardians in respect of the salaries of Poor-law officers and the cost of drugs and medical appliances is limited to the expenditure actually incurred during the financial year 1887-8; and, seeing that this restriction operates unfairly in the case of Unions where great improvements have been made in administration during the past twenty-four years, especially in the case of the sick and children, whether, in view of the recommendations of the Royal Commissions on Local Taxation and on the Poor Laws, he will consider the desirability of removing this limitation, so that the grants may correspond to the efficiency of the service given.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that this is not a matter which can be determined apart from a general re-settlement of the relations between local and Imperial finance.

THE SUPPLY OF OPIUM.

Replying to Mr. T. E. Harvey on June 6, the Under-Secretary for India stated that the Secretary of State is in communication with the Government of India and the Foreign Office regarding the situation created in Shanghai through the failure of the provisional Chinese Government and the provincial authorities to observe the Opium

Agreement of last year, both as regards the restriction of poppy cultivation in China and the admission of a limited quantity of certificated Indian opium. The Government of India has already announced that the licensed area in British India will be largely reduced this year in pursuance of the policy of progressive reduction. The Secretary of State does not propose to instruct them in the sense suggested by the hon. member.

Replying to Sir J. D. Rees on Tuesday, June 11, Sir E. Grey stated that the present Government in China had given assurances that it would do its utmost to enforce the suppression of the cultivation and smoking of opium, but at present the Government has not effective control of the cultivation in many of the provinces.

CHEMISTS AND THE SHOPS ACT.

Captain Jessel put the following questions to the Home Secretary on Wednesday, June 12:

Whether he is aware of the effect upon chemists of the Shop Hours Act, who are obliged to be in attendance to dispense medicines but are not allowed to sell anything else during the closing of the shop; and whether he could see his way to hold an inquiry into the matter.

Whether chemists who undertake dispensing under the National Insurance Act will be permitted to refuse to supply drugs during the time the shop is closed.

The Home Secretary replied that the Act allows a chemist to keep open on the half-holiday for the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances, but not for the sale of articles which other shopkeepers are not allowed to sell on the half-holiday. It is obvious that if a shopkeeper carrying on an exempted trade were allowed to sell non-exempted as well as exempted articles on the half-holiday he would obtain an unfair advantage over other shopkeepers, and that it would be open to any shopkeeper by stocking some articles to evade the requirements of the Act altogether. The whole question was very thoroughly considered by Parliament last Session and he saw no sufficient ground for instituting an inquiry as suggested.

Mr. Crooks put a question at the same time, which is of interest to chemists and their assistants. It was:

Whether his attention has been called to the fact that in some shops which are continuously open for selling seven days a week the assistant usually had one day in the seven off, now under the Act these assistants are given a half-day on Sunday, so that they are really worse off under the Act than previous to its passing; and whether he will consider the desirability of introducing legislation to deal with such cases.

The Home Secretary said his attention had not previously been called to any such case, but as the assistants are entitled to a half-holiday on a week-day they would appear, even if they have only a half-holiday on Sunday, to be getting not less time off than they were before the Act, and they had the guarantee in addition of at least a half-day off every week. The question of Sunday closing is full of difficulties, and at present there is no prospect of further legislation.

NEW BOOKS.

Any of these books printed in the United Kingdom can be supplied, at the published price, to "C. & D." subscribers on application (with remittance) to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C. These notes do not exclude subsequent reviews.

Baly, E. C. C. *Inorganic Chemistry*. 12mo. Pp. 96. 6d. net. (Jack.)

Haenig, A. *Emery and the Emery Industry*. 7½×4¾. Pp. 114. 5s. net. (Scott, Greenwood.)

Jack, W. R. *Wheelcer's Handbook of Medicine*. 4th edit. 7½×5. Pp. 544. 8s. net. (Livingstone.)

Macdonald, D. M. *Red Manual of First-aid and Stretcher Drill*. Cr. 8vo. Pp. 78. 1s. net. (G. Gill.)

Palmer, Margaret D. *Lessons on Massage*. 4th edit. 8¾×5½. Pp. 308. 7s. 6d. net. (Baillière.)

Schimpf, H. W. *A Systematic Course of Qualitative Chemical Analysis of Inorganic Substances*. 2nd edit. 8vo. 5s. 6d. net. (Chapman & Hall.)

The Shops Act, 1912.

WE publish a card for exhibition by chemists who supply medicines during closing hours on half-holidays. It measures 14 in. by 8 in.; price 8d. for two cards, post free, from the Subscription Department of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

The following are brief particulars of local arrangements under the Act:

Birkenhead.—The Town Council on June 5 adopted the recommendation of the Health Committee that the prescribed register of chemists' shops be prepared by the medical officer of health, and that the Shops Act Sub-committee be requested to bring up their further recommendations with regard to the application of the local Pharmacists' Association for half-day closing on Thursdays at 1 P.M.

Exeter.—At a meeting of the Market and General Purposes Committee of the Exeter City Council, the Town Clerk reported that in regard to the application from the chemists of Exeter for a closing order a register had been prepared, and it appeared that a *prima-facie* case had been made out for the making of the order. It was resolved that the Town Clerk take the necessary step to make the order.

Folkestone.—The Town Council have decided to make an order suspending Wednesday half-day closing during July, August, and September.

Lichfield.—Commencing this week the local chemists will close their pharmacies on Wednesdays at 1 P.M.; on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, at 7 P.M.; and on Saturdays at 9 P.M.

Liverpool.—The recommendation of the Corporation Health Committee that certain trades in the central area be exempt from the half-day closing provisions of the Shops Act was adopted by the City Council, on June 5, by forty-three votes to thirty-eight. The exempted tradesmen include chemists, herbalists, perfumers, photographers, fancy-goods dealers, and aerated-water vendors, but not opticians or dealers in photographic instruments and materials.

Ludlow.—The Town Council on June 6 received a letter from the chemists in Ludlow asking to be exempted from the Shops Act. The matter was referred to the Market and Fairs Committee.

Manchester.—When the question of granting exemption from closing in the central area came before the City Council on June 4, fifty voted for and fifty voted against exemption. The Mayor gave his casting vote in favour of exemption.

Preston. In the annual report of the Secretary of the local Chemists' Association it is stated that regular closing hours have been fixed and agreed to by the pharmacists in the town. Thursday half-holiday has also been adopted. Cards and posters to this effect have been printed for the Association and exhibited in all pharmacies in the town.

Torquay.—The Town Council on June 5 received a petition from ten chemists and druggists asking for an order for compulsory closing on Wednesdays at 1 P.M., except during the months of January, February, March, and April. The Council referred the matter to the General Purposes Committee for the necessary inquiries to be made.

Watford.—The Urban District Council's Finance Committee report in respect of the applications from chemists carrying on business in the district that they are satisfied that at least two-thirds of the trade approve of an order being made for half-day closing on Wednesdays, and that a *prima-facie* case had been made out. The Council have decided to make an order.

OVERHEARD.—Two youngsters, after carefully reading over notice on door (*re* weekly half-holiday) and debating whether their intended purchase could be termed legal or not: "Go on! What are ye feared for? Is a Seidlitz poodre no a surgical appliance?"

RUSSIAN SUNFLOWER-SEED.—The 1911 crop of sunflower-seed was unprecedentedly abundant; all the oil-mills in the Northern Caucasus were able to procure sufficient seed to keep their mills going throughout the present year. Despite this, a surplus for export was available; 20,909 tons were exported in 1911, chiefly to the United Kingdom. Owing to the plentiful crop of sunflowers, there was an abundance of stalks for burning, and the quantity of carbonate of potash exported was 6,232 tons in 1911, against 4,399 tons in 1910.



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INFORMATION WANTED.

We would be obliged if any reader would inform us by post-card or telephone who are the makers or agents of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 193/22. Mallin's Dip.
- 195/39. "Paddy" perfume.
- 205/61. Kinahan's liver-pills.
- 196/49. "Victory" corn-silk.
- 207/21. "Paralax": makers.
- 193/23. "Fana" bath-brushes.
- 202/32. "Salt Regal": makers.
- 201/74. "Presto" hair-tonic; makers.
- 204/17. "Marvel Baby Bunting" soothers.
- 199/31. Hopsen's patent hair-brush cleanser.
- 193/59. "Anti-blight" for spraying fruit-trees.
- 201/32. "Bernard" brand ginger-wine; makers.
- 205/40. "Doris" perfume (Moreau et Fils, Paris).
- 196/63. "Vernicide" for killing insects on plants.
- 205/610. "Agaroma": what is it, and who supplies?
- 41/30. One-solution "Premier" hair-dye (Durbar et Cie.).
- 204/26. "Sunrise" and "Elephant" brands Japanese camphor.
- 203/54. "Frizir Crème" (German), yellow label with gold margin: who sells?
- 199/48. PO-HO-YO (or Gouttes Japonaises), "an oil of peppermint in small vials labelled in Japanese."

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to the makers or sellers of the following articles. The information will be repeated to other inquirers who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Amber bottles (special), 202/26 | Metal printing types, 200/59 |
| Annaatto-seed, 201/34 | Naphthaline (in small flakes and powder), 202/16 |
| Benzo-kinone, 201/69 | "Omega" syringes, 202/73 |
| Bismuth compounds, 203/53 | Osogen, 204/800 |
| Burst-off ammonia-bottles, 199/69 | Oxgall, 204/32 |
| Celmo (for rheumatism), 203/36 | "Ozolit" night-lights, 199/101 |
| Chalmers patent metal envelope, 205/64 | Parmin, 203/590 |
| "Cherry Ripe" chewing-gum (London agents), 203/30 | Pierce's remedies (supply), 198/6 |
| Cole's specialities, 206/73 | "Pil. evacuant," 205/620 |
| Covered pots (makers and first-hands dealers), 205/59 | Potato-starch in powder (10-ton lots), 202/64 |
| D.D.D. specialities, 204/8 | "Prevention" tooth-brush, 206/72 |
| Diphenyl-quinoleo-tetra-carbonic acid, 205/63 | "Reducline," 203/4 |
| Erepton, 183/24 | "Rosalia" tooth-brushes, 201/51 |
| Flood's "Mist. Bismuthi," 205/25 | "Ruby" worm-mixture and tonic-pills, 199/102 |
| "Gelo-durat" capsules, 200/21 | Salithol, 205/60 |
| Hedonal, 201/67 | "Sandosa," 205/251 |
| Herring oil (Norwegian manufacturers), 201/66 | "Spiralotte" fly-reels (supply), 201/8 |
| Horsford's acid phosphate, 202/74 | "Spirone," 203/5 |
| "Kalyde" (for poultry), 199/10 | Steel barrels (for sheep-dips), 204/25 |
| Kingan's pills, 205/610 | "Suzuki" brand Japanese camphor (importers), 204/26 |
| Klensene (for dogs), 199/100 and 201/35 | Tablet-compressing machinery (French inquiry), 204/5 |
| Lapacetic pills (makers and London supply), 205/62 | Tarsap, 205/61 |
| Liantral, 206/71 | "Telmo" specialities, 203/591 |
| Mercolised wax (London supply), 203/59 | Terebene balsam (for sheep), 202/63 |
| Metal sprinkler corks (for Japan), 205/39 | "Terror" virus (for rats), 199/70 |
| | "Thelma" perfume, 202/13 |
| | Tooth-powder tins, 199/44 |
| | Trybol, 205/250 |
| | Valentine's meat-juice, 204/29 |

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS

By Xrayser II.

An Important Fact

which emerges clearly from Mr. H. E. Neal's evidence before the Patent Medicines Committee is that all the prohibitive legislation affecting the importation of proprietaries into the Australian Colonies does not appear to have injured to any great extent the trade in such articles. They are, said Mr. Neal, largely sold, and the demand for them is increasing. When it is remembered that the legislation referred to is on the lines advocated for our own protection from abuse, that (for instance) it forbids extravagant statements as to the value of the medicines and false or inadequate descriptions; that it insists upon the use of a label stating if any of certain specified drugs, and, if so, in what proportion, are contained in them; and that it bars entirely the entry of any preparation declared by the Customs authorities to be worthless, the most fearful among us may feel reassured with regard to any

Probable Legislation Here.

At the same time it is significant that apparently none of these restrictions or requirements applies to native Australian medicines, and the suspicion evidently entertained by several members of the Committee that at least one of the objects aimed at by our Antipodean relatives is the protection of their own industries is quite natural. Mr. Neal, however, declared himself unaware of any intention of the kind and of any such effect, which, so far as it goes, is again reassuring. If Australian manufacturers gain nothing by their freedom, it seems clear either that they do not think it necessary to lie and exaggerate, or that they are mistaken in thinking otherwise. Upon the whole, the evidence may be taken to prove that—shall I say comparatively?—modest merit still has a chance in the world, and that, Carlyle's dictum notwithstanding, our fellow-creatures are not "mostly fools."

The Guillotine

has in its day been responsible for many tragedies, but surely nothing more tragic ever happened than when it fell on the unfortunate amendment "drawn up in Mr. O'Grady's name" which the Attorney-General "readily consented to accept." But for this dreadful calamity the amendment aforesaid would have passed the House of Commons, and thus the whole course of recent and prospective pharmaceutical history would have been altered. Worse still was to follow, for the House of Lords neglected its duty. Had these hereditary slaves only stood up like free men and insisted on their rights, what a different tale would Mr. Huntrods have had to tell! Instead of the nice little apocryphal stories of Mr. Glyn-Jones's subtlety and the exposure of the nine incompetent qualified men, he would have been soaring in the vast empyrean, and instead of only "loud and prolonged applause" we would have had the Hallelujah Chorus at the very least. Surely Mr. Huntrods's fellow-members must have been thankful for very small mercies indeed when they wasted their breath applauding such childish tales.

Our Examinations

were also the subject of some remarks by Mr. Huntrods. The argument he directs against them would be negligible were it not so complete an exposure of the fallacy of his position. It starts from premisses

demonstrably false, and proceeds by a series of improved assumptions to a question-begging conclusion. Mr. Huntrods says that "as a nation we have been losing a good deal of ground in the commercial world by making us an over-examined nation." The fact is that one of our chief rivals for the trade of the world is Germany, and Germans are notoriously much more examined than we are. Not to go into unnecessary particulars, the German "Eingehriges," who include virtually all fairly educated men, all pass a stringent examination in order to escape two years of compulsory service in the army. We have nothing answering to this in England. But even were the fact as Mr. Huntrods says, his argument would fail to prove his case against the Minor. He says that any boy "ought, . . . after passing his Preliminary and serving a proper apprenticeship, to be able to pass an examination to enable him to start business, without having to go through an expensive cramming curriculum which is of no use in the practical side of the business."

It is here assumed that an ordinary apprenticeship is a "proper" apprenticeship, and that all knowledge but such as "ought" to be acquired by its means is practically useless. It is largely because Germans have a different opinion of the value of knowledge which seems to Mr. Huntrods impractical that they sometimes beat us in business.

Mr. Umney's Protest

against the view that there is no harm in adding to an essential oil deficient in a particular chemical constituent that same constituent in a pure form from another source, is timely, and it deserves to be emphasised. That such a proposal should have been put forward indicates no small amount of commercial immorality, and it will be well if distillers and dealers pay attention to the protest. Should the time ever come when the Pharmacopœias introduce, for example, pure citral and recognise it from whatever source obtained, the case will, of course, be altered; but until that time does come we have a right to expect that our lemon oil shall be obtained from lemon-peel only, and other oils from the sources from which they obtain their name.

The Varying Temperature

of sea-water is an interesting and sometimes an obscure problem. I confess that until I read your report of Professor Howard Barnes's lecture on icebergs I had had no clear idea of the cause of the fall in temperature in approaching the regions of icebergs. On the few occasions when I have had the opportunity of seeing temperatures taken in mid-ocean I have always observed that the thermometer was simply dipped into the surface-water, but no one could ever tell me why the colder water should be found at the surface since the natural thing to expect is that the cold water, being denser, should sink. Professor Barnes resolves this difficulty entirely. If we could imagine a block of ice twenty acres in extent rising a hundred feet above sea-level and having nine hundred feet in water, we would probably form some idea of the immense quantity of fresh water constantly flowing from the melting berg, and this light water floating on the surface of the heavy salt water must find its way for miles around the ice. It would be interesting also to have an explanation of why on approaching an iceberg there should be first a rise of temperature before the rapid fall. What is the cause of this rise?

MR. N. F. GRAHAM, son of Mr. F. A. Graham, pharmacist, Bournemouth, obtained the M.B., B.S. degrees at the recent examination of the University of London.

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Editorial Articles.

Foreign Trade in May.

It may have been thought that the Board of Trade Returns for the month of May would have shown a setback similar to those for April, but such is not the case, both imports and exports showing increased values. It is, however, too early for the exports to reflect the influence of the present transport strike on the volume of trade, and the import figures very probably include some goods not actually landed. The following table shows the value of the imports and exports for the month of May and for the five months ending May, together with the increases as compared with the corresponding periods of 1911:

| | May 1912. | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|-------------|-----|-------------|
| | £ | | £ | |
| Imports | ... | 55,130,632 | ... | +1,198,540 |
| Exports | ... | 38,832,475 | ... | +1,217,647 |
| Re-exports | ... | 10,825,163 | ... | +1,990,212 |
| | Five Months (January-May). | | | |
| | £ | | £ | |
| Imports | ... | 303,345,364 | ... | +20,292,549 |
| Exports | ... | 190,340,714 | ... | +2,785,567 |
| Re-exports | ... | 52,095,172 | ... | +5,961,116 |

On the import side there was an advance of 1,198,540., or 2.2 per cent., this being largely attributable to the high prices ruling for foodstuffs and raw materials for manufactures. The food and drink bill shows an increase of 377,300., and no doubt this would have been much larger but for the strike at the London Docks. As regards raw materials, the leading feature was an expansion of 1,767,000. in raw cotton, but in most of the other principal items there was a falling-off, and under

the head of "Oil-seeds, nuts, oils, and gums" a decrease of 899,000*l.* took place, the imports of petroleum alone declining by 127,800*l.* On the other hand, chemicals and the like increased by 51,712*l.* to 1,035,739*l.* The largest gains included unenumerated potash-compounds (40,278*l.*), painters' colours (28,058*l.*), cream of tartar (11,968*l.*), natural indigo (7,969*l.*), glycerin (6,997*l.*); the heaviest declines took place in tanning-extracts (21,055*l.*), miscellaneous chemicals (10,659*l.*), aniline and naphthalene dyestuffs (9,497*l.*), and unenumerated drugs and medicines (8,320*l.*). We imported 54,329 oz. more of quinine, the May total being 178,711 oz.

Turning to the exports of British produce there was a gain of 1,217,647*l.*, equal to 3.2 per cent., a considerable proportion of this being due to heavier shipments of fuel, which may be set down as an aftermath of the coal strike; food, drink, and tobacco exports increased by 336,600*l.* On this occasion we have to report the slight decrease of 124,094*l.* in exports of manufactured articles, perhaps the least satisfactory part of the Returns. Iron and steel manufactures dropped 691,914*l.*, machinery by 105,024*l.*, cotton by 108,424*l.*, and wool by 217,536*l.* New ships gained 274,900*l.*, and there are moderate increases in the smaller industrial products which helped to counter-balance the losses. Chemicals, drugs, etc., declined slightly by 29,213*l.*, the figures being as follows:

| | 1910 | 1911 | 1912 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| May ... | 1,522,908 | 1,742,567 | 1,713,354 |
| Jan.-May ... | 7,671,089 | 8,903,252 | 9,555,509 |

Much of the decline last month was due to the lessened demand for chemical manures, chiefly ammonium sulphate and basic slag. Bleaching-powder exports were 42,299 cwt. less, soda-compounds 29,691 cwt. less, and quinine 55,165 oz. less. On the other hand, the chief gains included 671 tons more of copper sulphate, 4,582 cwt. more glycerin, 10,962 cwt. sulphuric acid, and 19,549 cwt. painters' colours and materials. The drug and medicine figures remain excellent. They were:

| | 1910 | 1911 | 1912 |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| May ... | 158,£91 | 169,911 | 182,753 |
| Jan.-May ... | 739,688 | 817,817 | 915,909 |

As already indicated, there was a slight falling-off in the quinine exports for the month, but for the expired portion of the year the gain is 10,279 oz., the total shipments being 634,339 oz., valued at 28,353*l.* Taking the figures as a whole, and making due allowance for the transport strike and the fact that there was one working-day less than in the corresponding month, the Returns are very satisfactory, and show that in spite of the continued labour unrest the foreign trade of the country is in a healthy condition.

Secret-medicine Inquiry.

X.

SHORTLY after two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon of this week the House of Commons Select Committee on Patent Medicines closed the first stage of the inquiry—the examination of official witnesses. The Excise, which is charged with the administration of the Medicine-stamp Acts; the Privy Council, which is responsible for the discredited Blue-book on unqualified practice; the Home Office, which set up the Select Committee; the Medical Editor of the B.P. (who appeared again on Thursday with more startling statements and some corrections); a representative of the Australian Commonwealth, whose Beale book and Customs practices stimulated anti-"patents" people among us;

and the Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, have given evidence. The real accusers, the British Medical Association as representing medical men, have yet to come, and it may be possible to elicit from them what specific purpose they had in view. Yet the nature of the questions and the evidence so far are of a most disconcerting character to those who are engaged in this department of the drug-trade, for the inquiry has been prolific of suggestions for interference, although there has been little proof that the public suffers in the slightest. Indeed, Mr. Guy Stephenson, of the Public Prosecutor's Department, stated again and again on Tuesday that fraud in patent medicines is rare; very rarely are complaints received from the public, and in one case only has a prosecution been successfully instituted. In spite of this repeated declaration Sir Henry Norman, Chairman of the Committee, asked this witness, with due solemnity, what suggestions he would make to strengthen the law so as to deal with cases of fraud in patent medicines! It is somewhat astonishing at this comparatively early stage of the proceedings, before incriminating evidence is heard and replied to, to have it assumed by the president of the tribunal that fraud is one of the characteristics of the patent-medicine business. But this is in keeping with previous occurrences in the inquiry, which threaten established practices of the drug-trade in all departments. Sir Nathaniel Highmore, Solicitor to the Customs and Excise, struck a keynote which is to ring through the proceedings when he suggested that the Medicine-stamp Acts need to be brought up to date, concessions legalised and exemptions restricted. What he had in view as to the latter was the loss of revenue through the sale of medicines which are exempted from duty because they are entire or pure, known, admitted, and approved, or described by body-names. It is not improbable that in any amendment of the law all these, and more, would be swept into the fiscal net; in short, that description of the medicinal properties of drugs and their compounds would be made the basis for the charge of duty. We cannot imagine that this would improve the drug-business. But there is the not improbable alternative, viz., to abolish the stamp-duty, the aggregate yield of which is a trifle in these days of new fruitful sources of national revenue. If this were done the objection to the stamp as a Government guarantee would be met, but a gateway would be opened to a flood of medicinal remedies, low-priced (as they would be unstamped) and recommended (in the present statutory sense) as freely as possible, if the Select Committee does not set up a *new method of control*. The latter is a supposition which must be reckoned with. The members of the Committee are groping at present to find some way out; they have had little assistance so far from the witnesses, except that they have demonstrated the absence of responsibility in any department, and it is not improbable that a recommendation may be made for one responsible Government Department to be set up which will have control of this branch of trade. Control means supervision and interference; everyone engaged in the business, from the biggest manufacturer to the smallest retailer, would be subject to it, and means for locating the business would be found in the present medicine-licensing system, the tax furnishing the money for carrying on the Department. This is an eventuality which has not yet been justified by evidence: proof has still to be adduced that the great bulk of the patent-medicine business requires any other control than the law now provides; but that the inquiry, if carried to its logical

conclusion of recommendation and enactment, will have a revolutionary effect upon the drug-trade seems to be inevitable. The case for the British Medical Association commenced on Thursday, and as given by Dr. Cox, the Medical Secretary, it is somewhat extravagant and pretentious. Dr. Cox stated that Mr. E. F. Harrison, Ph.C., B.Sc., who analysed "patents" for the Association, is to give evidence as to their cost. This is the first public intimation of the identity of the analyst.

Japanese Poison Law.

A NEW ORDINANCE (No. 5) proclaimed recently by the Home Minister for Japan relates to the control of the sale of "poisonous" and "powerful" substances for other than medicinal purposes. It came into force on June 1, and consists of twenty articles. The first indicates that certain substances which are not used in medicine shall be designated as poisonous and powerful substances, and Article 4 regulates that each vessel or package, which should be tightly sealed, shall bear the name of the substance and the words "Not used for medicinal purposes," as well as the word "Poisonous" in white on a red background or "Powerful" in red type on a white background, according to the category in which the substance is placed. The cautionary type is to be the same as that used for the word "Poisonous" or "Powerful." Article 7, however, exempts persons accustomed to using these substances when they are sold or used among themselves. The following are lists of compounds coming within the new law:

Poisonous Substances:

Arsenic, its compounds and preparations, and dyes containing arsenic.

Hydrofluoric acid.

Hydrogen and potassium cyanides and other cyanides except Berlin blue, and potassium ferro- and ferri-cyanides.

Mercury compounds and dyes containing mercury, except mercury subchloride, mercury subiodide, oleate of mercury, ammoniated mercury, mercury acetonitrile, mercury cyanate, and mercury sulphide.

Phosphorus, phosphorus sulphide, and their preparations.

Soluble uranium salts and dyes containing uranium.

Powerful Substances:

Ammonia, solution of, unless containing less than 10 per cent. of ammonia gas.

Aniline and its compounds.

Barium compounds, except barium sulphate.

Bromine.

Cadmium and its compounds.

Carbonyl bisulphide.

Caustic potash and its preparations; unless containing under 5 per cent. of the compound.

Caustic soda and its preparations; unless containing under 5 per cent. of the compound.

Chromic acid.

Copper compounds (not the metal).

Creosote.

Gamboge and its preparations.

Gold salts (not the metal).

Hydrobromic acid.

Hydrochloric acid, and preparations containing 10 per cent. or more of this acid.

Hydroxylamine, its compounds and preparations.

Iodine and its preparations.

Lead compounds, except lead carbonate.

Mercury subchloride and its preparations.

Methyl alcohol.

Nitric acid and preparations containing 10 per cent. or more of this acid.

Oxalic acid and its preparations.

Paraphenyldiamine, its salts and its preparations.

Potassium binoxalate.

Potassium chlorate and its preparations; except explosives containing the salt as their principal element.

Potassium chromate, potassium bichromate, and their preparations.

Silver salts (not the metal); except silver chloride.

Sodium.

Sulphonal and its derivatives.

Sulphuric acid and its preparations containing 10 per cent. or more of this acid.

Tartar emetic.

Tin salts.

Tobacco preparations.

Zinc salts and their preparations except zinc carbonate and zinc oxide.

There is also a list of poisonous and powerful substances used for domestic purposes for which the buyer is not required to give a signed order according to Article 8. These are:

Hair-dyes containing paraphenyldiamine or silver nitrate.

Hydrochloric acid or sulphuric acid for use in fire-extinguishers.

Insecticides containing copper sulphate, tobacco preparations, or mercury subchloride.

Vermine-extinguishing preparations containing phosphorus or sulphonal.

A perusal of the new regulations shows that they are drawn up with scientific accuracy with regard to the protection of the public. As to their practical application and utility there must be much doubt. Evidently users in technical industries are exempt from the provisions, and these must form the great bulk of users of the compounds for which the regulations are made. The public demand in this country is comparatively small, so what must it be in Japan? The vendor must also have very extended knowledge to comply to the letter with the regulations.

Conference Tickets.

Mr. Thomas Stephenson, F.R.S.E., 137 George Street, Edinburgh, the Hon. Local Secretary of the Conference, informs us that some of his correspondents imagine that our statement that books of tickets can be had at a guinea the pair, means for a gentleman and lady. This is quite a misconception. Book No. 1 covers all the functions and luncheons and teas on the Tuesday and Wednesday, and Book No. 2 is for the trip to Melrose including luncheon and tea, and these two books can be obtained from Mr. Stephenson for one guinea. Anyone who desires to get one of the books only pays 15s. for it.

The Transport War.

Negotiations for the settlement of the transport dispute having failed, the executive of the Transport Workers' Federation called for a national stoppage on Monday night; but up to Wednesday the response had been poor, and the chances of a universal stoppage are somewhat doubtful. Meanwhile, the prolongation of the strike has brought about a further dislocation of business in London this week, so much so that the usual fortnightly drug-auction due to be held on Thursday was postponed, it being impossible to obtain delivery of the goods. At other produce-auctions held in Mincing Lane this week, much depleted supplies have been offered, and in spite of the unloading that is being done by casual and imported labour, the trade of the Port is paralysed. Many of the docks are now in a hopeless state of congestion, and dozens of vessels with cargo from all parts of the world have to lie off in the river. The consequence is that a few articles of produce have become temporarily scarce, and those who have stocks are able to obtain a premium, and naturally consumers are eking out their supplies. The one consolation is that this condition of things cannot last much longer.

Preliminary Examinations Guide.

The fourth edition of Dodd's "Complete Guide to Preliminary Examinations for Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Surgery, and Science" has been published this week. It is obtainable from the C. & D. Office or from wholesale houses at 2s. 6d., post free 2s. 9d. The ideal method of preparing for the Preliminary is to study with

the guidance and assistance of a tutor. Many, however, especially those residing in country districts, cannot do this, and must therefore labour at a disadvantage compared with their fellows more fortunately situated. To increase their difficulties they are often employed until a late hour each evening, and consequently have only a limited time for preparation at their disposal. And even when they are able to snatch a few hours for private study, they are often at a loss to know what to read and how to read it to the best advantage. A judicious selection of books and a methodical course of study are of paramount importance to every student preparing for examination, and *a fortiori* to those deprived of regular oral instruction and possessing little leisure for reading. It is for such private students that the present handbook has been compiled. Its object is not to teach the different subjects but to point out clearly and concisely what are believed to be the best means of learning them. Courses for self-instruction in each portion of the syllabus are described, the most important parts of each are indicated, the peculiar difficulties pointed out and the best manner of dealing with them. To these are appended, at different stages of the student's progress, test-papers framed from the questions proposed at recent examinations, with all necessary notes, answers, translations, and references to the text-books recommended. The book, which contains the latest information as to special subjects, will save students much loss of time and prevent misdirected energy.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THERE was a moderate attendance at the meeting held in the Society's Rooms, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W., on June 6, when the President, Professor P. F. Frankland, took the chair. The Chairman announced with regret the death of M. François Lecoq de Boisbaudron, of Paris, who had been a foreign member of the Society since 1888. Seven papers were read, the first being by Professor P. C. Rây, of Calcutta, and his pupils, Messrs. N. R. Dhar and T. C. De, on

THE VAPOUR-DENSITY OF AMMONIUM NITRITE.

Professor Rây was present to summarise his new researches, which continued the investigation of ammonium nitrite, isolated in the crystalline state some three years ago in the laboratory of the Presidency College, Calcutta. It was found that the solid sublimed at 33° to 35° with partial decomposition, but even at 40° it was mostly undecomposed. With solutions, however, evaporation, even at 35°, resulted in partial conversion into the nitrate. In vacuum it was found that, while ammonium nitrite volatilised at 40° to 45°, ammonium nitrate did not sublime at 80°. The nitrite did not volatilise in its entirety, a portion being decomposed into nitrogen and water, and a smaller proportion into nitric oxide, ammonia, and water. On placing ammonium nitrite in a Hoffmann vacuum tube, jacketed with boiling methyl or ethyl alcohol, and using an alkaline sulphide to absorb the nitric oxide, some 20 to 25 per cent. of the vapours consisted of pure ammonium nitrite. This had a vapour-density (mean of six determinations) of 33.5, against 32.0 calculated. A specimen of crystalline ammonium nitrite sublimed *in vacuo* was passed around and excited considerable interest. Dr. V. H. Veley, in welcoming Professor Rây, said he was an illustrious representative of a great Aryan nation which had attained a high degree of civilisation and discovered many chemical processes when this country was but a dismal swamp. Professor Rây had shown, contrary to text-book statements, that ammonium nitrite could be obtained in a stable crystalline condition and volatilised. He concluded by paying a warm tribute to Dr. Rây and his pupils for their valuable researches on ammonium and the amine nitrites. The

Chairman also extended, on behalf of the Society, a hearty welcome to Professor Rây, endorsing Dr. Veley's remarks.

The next communication was on

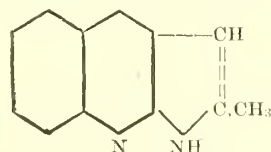
PYROGENIC DECOMPOSITION. PART I., BENZENE,

by Dr. C. Smith and Mr. W. Lewcock, and was read by the former. This investigation was concerned with the effect of temperature and duration of heating as prime factors in controlling pyrogenic decompositions. In passing benzene through a heated tube the best yield of di-phenyl (54 per cent.) was obtained at 720° with an iron tube 55 cm. long and 3.2 cm. wide. With barium peroxide present as catalyst there is a small increase in the amount of diphenyl formed. With a continuous form of apparatus the amount of diphenyl formed under the above conditions fell off to between 30 and 40 per cent. of the benzene vaporised. This was found to be due to water-cooling of one end of the tube in the first form of apparatus diminishing the real length of tube heated. When the tube in the continuous form of apparatus was shortened to 36 cm., a 65 per cent. yield of diphenyl was obtained. A short discussion ensued.

The next paper, by Professor G. T. Morgan and Messrs. E. Jobling and R. T. F. Barnett, was concerned with the absorption spectra of certain nitroamines and nitroamides which had been determined with a view to making a generalisation; but it was found that the hoped-for hypothesis broke down.

HARMINE AND ISO-HARMAN

were the subjects of two communications by Professor W. H. Perkin and Dr. R. Robinson, the latter being present at the meeting to read them. Part I. consisted of a preliminary note on the constitution of harmine. Arguments were developed to show that this alkaloid, which is contained in the seeds of *Peganum Harmalum*, is oxidised by chromic acid into harminic acid with destruction of an aniso nucleus, in turn yielding apoharmine on heating. The alkaloid is thus a methoxy-benzo-apoharmine with unknown position of the methoxy group. Considerations were given showing that apoharmine must be a fused pyridine pyrrol, but the position of fusion is unknown. Part II. dealt with the synthesis of *iso*-harman. O. Fischer had eliminated the methyl radicle from harmine and obtained harman. An attempt to synthesise this had resulted in a compound with the formula



designated *iso*-harman, which is barely distinguishable in properties from harman. It has a slightly lower melting-point and is not so soluble in hot water. It yields colourless salts, while harman gives yellow salts.

Dr. G. Barger then read a paper by himself on "Blue Absorption-compounds of Iodine. Part I., Starch Saponarin, and Cholalic Acid." The crystalline compound of iodine and cholalic acid approximated in composition to 1 molecule of iodine with 1 of cholalic acid, but the amorphous precipitates varied in the manner typical with colloids. In the case of starch and iodine it has been shown that the presence of potassium iodide is necessary for the formation of a blue compound, but this chemical is by no means specific; any electrolyte will do, the cation being the important ion for adsorption to occur. Trivalent ions (lanthanum) favour this (especially in the case of saponarin) more than bivalent (barium) or monovalent (potassium) elements. The last paper, read by Dr. S. Smiles, was on the two sulphides of β -naphthol.

GAZETTE.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

ADJUDICATION.

CUTFORTH, J. D., Middlegate Street, Great Yarmouth, chemist.

Select Committee on Patent Medicines.

Appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the sale of patent and proprietary medicines and medical preparations and appliances, and advertisements relating thereto.

Record of Evidence on June 6, 11, and 13.

WE summarised in our last issue the first part of the evidence given by the Public Prosecutor after luncheon on June 6. We now give a fuller report of this evidence, which was continued on Tuesday, June 11. On that occasion Sir Joseph Beecham, Mr. Glover, Mr. E. Pickering, Mr. Wren, Mr. Harry Moon, Mr. R. A. Robinson, Mr. John Lawson, Mr. Cakebread, and Mr. McKenna were among the "public" admitted.

Mr. Guy Stephenson, Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, stated that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the Director of Public Prosecutions institutes proceedings in regard to fraud in matters with which the Select Committee has been concerned. In important cases of policy, however, he takes the orders of the Attorney-General, and the Home Secretary has power to direct the Director of Public Prosecutions to institute proceedings in any particular case. Further, it is the duty of the police to report cases to the Director, who either takes up or declines a case, or else gives advice. Neither the Director nor the police can institute a prosecution without evidence, and in any case of fraud on the public by advertisement or otherwise it is not possible to obtain a conviction without calling a number of persons. It is only possible to prosecute for fraud where there is a complainant, and they must prove that the person advertising made a statement which was false, and made it knowing it to be false. Cases of prosecution in connection with the sale of proprietary drugs or appliances in which it is possible to prosecute must of necessity be few in number by reason of the difficulty of obtaining evidence. Witnesses are naturally unwilling to come forward to state they have answered advertisements for remedies for certain complaints. In one instance where there had been a prosecution they had a case of South American and African compounds actually made up in a house in Brighton and statements published that various reverend gentlemen had found salvation through these remedies. They investigated and found there were no such persons known. There they had a case proved, but that was rather an exception.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: Did you get a conviction?—Yes.

The Chairman (Sir Henry Norman): Did you find out anything about the testimonials?—Yes, many of these people were found to be fictitious.

Witness said that at Lewes Assizes the elder prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: Was it proved in that case that the articles sold were worthless?—Yes; evidence was prepared to be given that while they were said to be valuable for certain specified complaints, medical men would prove that they were useless for a number of those complaints. He added that one of the difficulties which confronted them was that in order to convict a person of fraud it must be proved that the statement on the faith of which the person defrauded parted with his money was not only false but false to the knowledge of the person making the statement. That is a state of things which it is almost impossible to prove where the seller of the drug is not also the manufacturer. In October 1893 a man named Herr Sharp and three Indians were prosecuted for conspiracy to defraud by selling something for the purpose of treating diseases of the eyes, and they advertised that they could cure diseases of the eyes. The prisoners were acquitted, the Common Serjeant having laid stress on the fact that before they could be convicted the jury must be sure that they knew that the treatment was of no value. In that case there had been persons forthcoming who said they had received benefit from the treatment. The Harness belt case had been referred to by Mr. Aitken in his evidence. That was a private prosecution, and was

dismissed by the Magistrates on the ground that no jury would convict. In that case there were witnesses on both sides. The then Director of Public Prosecutions had declined to take up that case on the ground that the evidence was insufficient.

Mr. Lawson: There was a civil case?—Yes, but I have no particulars about that.

SALE OF ABORTEFACTS.

Witness said that in July 1906 a man had been convicted before Mr. Justice Bigham at the Stafford Assizes for obtaining money by false pretences in connection with electric treatment. In that case there were witnesses who said they had benefited by treatment in an electric chair, but the man was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. In that case the prosecution had been a private one originally, but had been taken up by the Director of Public Prosecutions. With regard to prosecutions for advertising drugs or appliances for the prevention of conception or the procuring of abortion, there had been only one case instituted by the Director of Public Prosecutions in recent years, apart from those under the Post Office Act, 1908. That was in regard to the advertisements of Madame Frain, where a conviction was obtained at the Central Criminal Court in 1899. It was contended that the drugs in question were not noxious drugs within the meaning of the Offences Against the Person Act, and that even if a woman who took the drugs believed that they would procure a miscarriage, the person who incited her to take them was not guilty unless he knew that the drugs were noxious drugs. The Judge held that when the inciter knew that the drug was not capable of producing abortion, but knew that the woman who took it thought it would procure abortion, he was not guilty of an offence, but the woman who took it was guilty of attempting to commit a crime. The Judge further held that there was evidence that some of the drugs were noxious drugs within the statute. The Judge said that if anything like these advertisements appeared again the proprietors of the newspapers which published them would deserve to find themselves in the dock. Those words have had a considerable effect, for since this prosecution there had been no further prosecution of the kind, and in the leading newspapers the publication of advertisements of that character had been discontinued. [Copies of the advertisements were handed to the members of the Committee.] Continuing his evidence, witness said that if the persons who sold the drugs knew that they were not noxious they could be proceeded against for obtaining money by false pretences. There was reason to believe that the drugs which are advertised are useless for the purposes for which they are sold; but there is great difficulty in obtaining evidence owing to the fact that, assuming it to be possible to get a woman to come forward to say that she had purchased the drug in the belief that it would cause a miscarriage, she would be admitting that she was guilty of attempting to commit a criminal offence in taking it.

Mr. Lynch: Is it an offence to prevent conception?—No; but I think you will find that in the report of the Committee with regard to Indecent Advertisements there are some recommendations for dealing with that, and there is a Bill before the Home Office which deals with it.

The Chairman: We know there is a Bill at the Home Office, but we know nothing of its contents.

Mr. Stephenson: I am told that is the case.

Mr. Lynch: If it is not an offence to prevent conception, in what way does an offence arise in connection with it?—When the advertisement is of such a character as to be indecent. Where it is not the sort of advertisement to be

sent to young girls. We always wait until we find there is some element in the advertisement which will take it out of the ordinary character of advertisements.

Mr. Stephenson had not completed his evidence when, at a quarter to three, the House of Commons bell rang summoning members to their places, and he was asked to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Tuesday's Evidence.

The public was admitted to Room 16 at 10.40 on Tuesday morning. The members of the Committee present were Sir Henry Norman (Chairman), Sir Philip Magnus, Mr. Glyn-Jones, Mr. Haydn Jones, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Newton, Mr. Lynch, Dr. Chapple, Mr. Cawley, and Mr. Harry Lawson.

Mr. Guy Stephenson was the only witness examined, his evidence being an elaboration of what he had said on June 6, chiefly in regard to the sale and advertising of Malthusian appliances, abortion, and remedies for venereal complaints. On more than one occasion the witness was taken into matters which are not germane to the inquiry, and there was much repetition; indeed, it looked on several occasions as if the Committee were filling in time. It was rumoured that the British Medical Association is not ready with its evidence; but the Secretary was present with the Beale book and other documents, and had not Mr. Stephenson occupied all the available time his evidence might have commenced.

INDECENT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Mr. Guy Stephenson, continuing his evidence, referred first to prosecutions under the Post Office Consolidation Act, 1908, Section 63. He had given evidence before the Committee on Indecent Advertisements in 1908, a report of which he handed in, and called attention to the prosecution in 1906 of John Mellinger, at the instance of the Post Office, for the distribution by post of a circular relating to articles for the prevention of conception, as to which complaints had been made to the Post Office. The case came up at the Middlesex Sessions, but on the suggestion of the Chairman, the late Sir Ralph Littler, the Grand Jury threw out the Bill, on the ground that the publication was not indecent in the sense of being nasty or dirty. Before that there had been some prosecutions under the old Post Office Acts in which magistrates had taken different views as to what is or is not indecent matter. The Director of Public Prosecutions had instituted three prosecutions in the present year under the 1908 Act—one at Manchester on January 11, where two persons named Barton were convicted and fined sums of 20*l.* and 10*l.* each on three summonses, and one of the defendants was ordered to pay 10*l.* 10*s.* costs. In that case the defendants sent particulars of an appliance described as a "Vaginator" to young ladies about to be married, coupled with a letter which purported to be a reply to a letter addressed to them, asking certain questions, when, as a matter of fact, no such letters had been written. The relatives of one of the young ladies concerned sent this letter to the Public Prosecutor, who had instituted inquiries, with the result that the prosecution followed. Similar proceedings had also been taken against a man who had been convicted at the Berkshire Assizes for sending out a descriptive price-list of Malthusian appliances and surgical requisites. The matter which was held to be indecent in that case consisted in the recommendation of some of the appliances as being not only safeguards, but in no way diminishing sexual pleasure. This case is under appeal. On May 17 in this year a man named Edward C. Hennequin was fined 20*l.* altogether on three summonses at the Mansion House for sending through the post the synopsis of a book which he proposed to publish, entitled "Secrets of Marriage, by a Medical Man." In that case the young girls who were the recipients of the documents had got into communication with the defendant by answering an advertisement which he had put in the newspapers offering employment to young ladies in musical comedy on the stage. The Committee would observe that there were special circumstances in each of these three cases, inasmuch as that in two of them the publication was confined to young women and girls, and that in the third case the recommendation went beyond that of a mere Malthusian appliance. In

ordinary cases prosecutions involving questions of morality were left in the hands of the police, who usually had skilled assistance. Other cases under the Post Office Act had been taken by the police in various parts of the country, and he referred specially to the case of Le Brasseur Surgical Manufacturing and Publishing Co., of Birmingham, who last year were prosecuted by the Chief Constable of Birmingham, pleaded guilty, and were fined 5*l.* and costs. Prosecutions for causing abortion were invariably taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions if a complaint was made to him and the evidence was sufficient. They were taken out, without exception, where loss of life had occurred. Taking the last three complete years, the figures were: In 1909, prosecutions for murder in nine cases against ten persons; one was convicted of murder, four of manslaughter, and five were acquitted; also prosecutions for abortion in eight cases.

The Chairman: Are these prosecutions on account of the administration of drugs, for, if not, I don't think the statistics are of interest to the Committee?—Witness said that as a rule they were prosecutions for using instruments; in almost every case drugs had been used and had proved quite ineffective. There were very few, if any, of these cases in which injury was caused by the drug.

FRAUD *v.* TRADE PUFF.

In reply to Mr. Glyn-Jones, Mr. Stephenson said a distinction was drawn between fraudulent representation and trade puffing. The Courts had held that mere puffing is not a false pretence. To obtain a conviction for obtaining money by false pretences the prosecutor must show that he believed in the truth of the representation made by the accused, and that that representation was one of existing fact, not of something in view, and that it was falsely made with the knowledge of the person making it, and therefore that it was made with intent to defraud. The last element would probably be inferred if the others were present. It had been held by the Judges that the mere puffing of goods of an extravagant character is not sufficient to support a prosecution. It frequently happened that where a man was charged with obtaining money by false pretences, either the man or his counsel contended that his representation was a mere puffing of his goods.

The examination proceeded thus:

Mr. Glyn-Jones: Has it not occurred in connection with libel actions that a man has held that his goods have been libelled when another man said that his goods are the best, and have not the Courts held that a statement that the goods are the best is merely a puff and not a libel on other people's goods?—I believe that is so, but that has not come within my direct knowledge; that would be a civil case.

If a purchaser of medicine claims that he has been induced to make the purchase on a false representation, will the person making that representation be liable in certain circumstances to a criminal action for fraud, or a civil action for breach of warranty?—Yes, in certain cases.

Where the proprietor of an article makes a statement of fact with regard to the ingredients in the article, is not that a case where the existing law would enable proceedings to be taken for fraud?—Subject to the evidence being available, yes.

If, for example, he says that a preparation contains no mercury, and if it is afterwards found that it does contain mercury, he may be liable to a prosecution for fraud?—Yes; but you would have to call as witnesses people who had taken it, and said they had taken it on the faith that it did not contain mercury; they would have to say that their health had been much injured by the fact that it had contained mercury.

In the case of a prosecution for fraud, would it be necessary to prove damage? Would it not be enough if a purchaser proved that the article was sold on an inaccurate representation?—It is not necessary to prove damage; but, on the other hand, a man would have to say that it had done him no good. If it had done him good, whether it contained mercury or not, I do not think you would get a jury to convict.

Then we may take it that any statement made of an existing fact might lead to a prosecution for fraud?—Subject to the evidence being obtainable, yes.

But if the medicine was bought on the representation that it would do certain things it might be difficult to obtain

a conviction?—Yes, it might be difficult, for it might be inferred that the person manufacturing the article was in a position to do what he claimed he could do.

Assuming that cancer cannot be cured by drugs, and that the proprietor of a medicine advertised it as an article that would cure cancer, the statement would be fraudulent?—Yes, for it would be a statement that the article would do what it could not do; but if there was a great difference of opinion as to whether it would do what was claimed for it, you could always start a prosecution, but you could not always get a conviction.

HARMFUL OR USELESS MEDICINES.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Stephenson said that if a medicine was being sold which could be proved to be doing serious harm to the health of a number of people, an application was made to the Director of Public Prosecutions to take proceedings, or if it was a medicine which came within the criminal law, such as medicines for abortion, proceedings would be taken; but the mere fact that the description of a medicine or a drug was untrue or fraudulent would hardly be a matter upon which they would undertake a prosecution. They would not take a prosecution, for example, merely because an article sold was useless. In regard to indecent advertisements, the Indecent Advertisement Act gave them power to prosecute where they were affixed in public places, but it was no offence to deliver written matter to private persons. Proceedings under that Act had been taken by the police, but, as the matter was one for summary jurisdiction, they did not come before the Public Prosecutor. The people prosecuted in regard to procuring abortion were sometimes men and women, but principally women. There were medical men occasionally who had been struck off the register, and sometimes medical men who were in practice.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: Is it very difficult in proceedings connected with procuring abortion or attempts to procure abortion, or selling drugs to procure abortion, to obtain evidence owing to the fact that some of the symptoms which might suggest pregnancy are not due to pregnancy, and that there might be a legitimate use for the drugs used?—Yes.

There are certain drugs which are used in connection with corrective disorders, and which may be legitimately used?—Yes.

And is there difficulty in deciding when they are used legitimately?—Yes, that is the difficulty.

Mr. Newton then took up the examination of the witness, the chief facts which he elicited being that since prosecutions regarding indecent advertisements had been taken successfully there had been a decrease in the number of such advertisements. Witness's Department could not undertake to search newspapers for such advertisements unless the staff was increased. He was also questioned as to cases of fraud arising out of the purchase or sale of proprietary medicines, Mr. Newton remarking, "I know of a man who was inundated with circulars and letters of a remedy intended to cure rupture by the application of a lotion. In that case it would be necessary for a man to say that he had bought a bottle of the lotion. Would not that be enough," he asked witness, "to secure a conviction against the firm which sent out these circulars?"—It would not be enough under the existing law, witness replied, and when Mr. Newton suggested an alteration of the definition of fraud, Mr. Stephenson seemed to doubt if Parliament would find it an easy job.

Mr. Lawson then took up the questions, and whenever he begins the duller moments are illumined and laughter is frequent. First he elicited that in the Indecent Advertisement Inquiry there was no charge against the Press generally for inserting such advertisements. Then he asked why the Home Secretary has not presented his Bill on the subject to Parliament. Is it due, asked Mr. Lawson, to the scandalous position of public business? After the laughter subsided, witness admitted that Chief Inspector Drew had stated that after the Madame Frain case in 1898 the advertisements in what he called the leading newspapers with regard to female ailments came to an end. Taking the Press as a whole, there is no charge against them of advertising these things. Since the Mellinger case there has been no difficulty, witness also admitted, in getting convictions under the Post Office

Consolidation Act, but the police had not been quite as confident in prosecution as they might have been. Also, it would be a help to the Department if the law could be extended as the Joint Committee suggested, especially with regard to medicines dangerous to health. Witness doubted whether the sale and advertisement of a fraudulent drug and the dealing by prosecution with the persons responsible would be a matter within the cognisance of his Department unless some very serious injury were done to the public. If that Committee were to recommend that under their existing powers they were to prosecute more of these pretenders, they could not do so with their present staff.

FRAUDULENT MARKING.

He thought that if a label containing the formula had to be put on every medical preparation it would have some effect in the prevention of fraud, assuming that it would make the person selling liable for the sale quite apart from the knowledge of the contents of the drug. He admitted that mere publication of a formula would not help without some further legislation to make it an offence to advertise a drug with a false description of its ingredients.

Mr. Lawson: But a false description is now fraudulent?—A false trade description is fraudulent under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. That is an Act which deals with false trade descriptions or forged trade-marks, describing the place of origin falsely of goods, and the proceedings are generally instituted by some person aggrieved.

What I meant was that supposing it is claimed there are certain substances in the preparation which are not there, that, I suppose, is a fraud under common law?—It is no offence until you show there has been some attempt to defraud somebody. A thing may be a fraud, and yet not be prosecutable at present.

In regard to a certain class of case, your difficulty has been to get the evidence. That would not apply, I imagine, to many of those medical preparations which deal with ordinary diseases?—You have to get evidence to show the purchaser of the drug, and then you have to have the analyst's evidence to show that the description of the ingredients is false. That would not be enough as the law stands at present. I understand your suggestion is that legislation might be passed to meet that.

Mr. Lawson: A proposal has been made to legislate?—Then that would be the only evidence you would require—namely, the purchaser of the drug and evidence of the falsity of the description.

Mr. Cawley next questioned witness as to the difficulties of prosecution, and asked why they should not go straight for the manufacturers without going through the formality of a retail purchase. To this witness replied that often the name of the manufacturer is not known. Asked as to sale, say, of opium in teething-powders, and what the Department would do in such a case, witness replied that the Department does not touch the Poisons Act, the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and the Merchandise Marks Act. He saw very great difficulty in any alteration of the law in cases where there was a patent fraud, short of a general prohibition of advertisements in newspapers.

MEDICAL MEMBERS INTERROGATE.

Dr. Chapple: I understand you to say that the statement on a bottle, for instance "A certain cure for cancer," should be made an offence?—I did not suggest that.

Will you suggest that the law should be so altered?—I think it would be valuable to protect people from being imposed upon, but the nature of the legislation I find difficult to suggest, short of an absolute prohibition.

The Chairman: That is very discouraging to the Committee.

Mr. Lawson: I understand if anyone has been deceived, it is an offence?—Witness said that is so. He gathered that the Committee wanted, if possible, to get out of the evidence difficulty, and to make it an offence *per se* to have attached to a bottle a false statement. There must, however, be some evidence—the evidence of the purchaser of the bottle. It might be a police officer, or the evidence of somebody who analysed; in fact, anybody could prove the purchase of a bottle and the sale, and some medical evidence could prove the nature of the contents. That evidence was required whatever alteration of the law was made.

Dr. Chapple : But the case I suggest is where there is a statement on the outside of the bottle, "A certain cure for cancer." You tell us now that a prosecution could not be successful?—No, I do not say that; I can conceive a case where a prosecution could be successful in those circumstances, but you would have to call evidence. There has been no such case.

Take chlorodyne. If it is said that chlorodyne cures consumption, would it not be sufficient to call medical evidence to prove that it was impossible for that to cure consumption?—Witness : Not as the law at present stands.

Do you suggest that the law should be extended to ropo in cases of obvious fraud of that kind?—I think it would be a valuable reform if the law could be so altered.

Would it not be a reform that could be adopted so as to prohibit claims of that kind being made out either in newspapers or on the labels of bottles?—Yes.

Dr. Chapple proceeded to contrast the possibilities in a recent case of false-marking with the words "Sheffield Plate," and the impossibilities as regards medicines which he had mentioned; and Mr. Stephenson again expounded the limitations of the Merchandise Marks Act, but he did not touch upon the convictions in respect to medicines and allied articles, such as are referred to in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 449.* Dr. Chapple wanted to know what entitles a person to the exclusive right to sell any remedy. This led to a brief academic conversation, which ended in remarks on the ethics of testimonials.

Mr. Lynch then had his chance, and his questions were given as if he had them in writing before him. First there was this tit-bit :

Mr. Lynch : Would it not be possible to appoint an officer to prevent fraud, just as an officer is appointed to prevent a burglary?—Witness : You mean a policeman. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lynch : Not necessarily a policeman—someone with a very small salary—(laughter)—whose duty it would be to act as a look-out for cases of fraud.—That is possible if Parliament will provide the funds; but even if you had such a detective department you would still have to get evidence.

Mr. Lawson : There are always policemen's wives. (Laughter.)

This was a reference to a Hampshire case, which was reported in the *C. & D.* at the time, and mention of the policeman's wife who represented to the accused that her daughter was pregnant never fails to raise a laugh.

MEDICINE-FRAUD IS RARE.

Mr. Stephenson, answering further questions by Mr. Lynch, said communications to his Department with regard to fraud by medicine or drugs were very rare indeed. He could not recall any other than those he had already mentioned. The Harness and Madame Frain cases were again mentioned. It would be a very strong thing to frame legislation which would make the description of the patent medicine on the label a warranty under the usual conditions of a warranty. It might be possible. He had not considered the point, and would not like to give a definite opinion upon it. It would not be quite within his purview. He thought an Act parallel with the Australian Act to some extent would be valuable in this country.

The rest of the questions and answers had to do with indecent matters, Malthusian appliances, pornographic literature, abortifacients, and venereal diseases. "Are you aware," queried Mr. Lynch, "that in France care is taken by the State to afford the fullest information on that subject to all patients?" Witness was not aware, whereupon Mr. Lynch explained that the idea is that it is much better to face whatever little damage may be done by this so-called indecency and strike at an evil which is gigantic. Mr. Stephenson thought it would in this country be difficult to educate public opinion on the matter.

Several members of the Committee showed signs of weariness by this time (about 1.30), and some of "the public" had withdrawn. Mr. Stephenson was examined next by Sir Philip Magnus, the member for the London University, whose pertinent questions and the replies to them were these :

Sir Philip Magnus : Will you be prepared to make any further suggestions to us as to the means that might be adopted to make prosecutions simply prosecutions for breach of the law; and, if so, at your leisure, will you be disposed to summarise your suggestions and place them before us?—With pleasure. I am afraid they are not likely to be of great value, because before giving evidence I discussed the matter with my chief, Sir Charles Mathews, and he came to the conclusion that it would be difficult to frame any suggestions. But I should be very happy further to consider the matter, and to attend again if necessary.

You have made many suggestions during the course of your examination, which, if summarised, might be very useful in arriving at a conclusion.—Yes, the subject is a very difficult one.

Can you make any suggestion as to any better means of bringing to the notice of the Director of Public Prosecutions such leaflets as those which you have submitted to the Committee to-day?—Really that kind of thing is a matter to be brought to the notice of the police in the first instance. If the police were to see them, no doubt they would deal with them themselves or consult the Director about them. I can only say that that is the system. We cannot act unless somebody puts something before us.

You cannot suggest any means by which the Director of Public Prosecutions might initiate action or inquiry with regard to these pernicious cases?—I will certainly consider the point.

Have you any suggestions to make as to the unification of the Government Departments concerned in matters connected with the sale of patent medicines and drugs? Is there any means of bringing all these together under one Department in order to simplify the object we have in view?—As regards the Director of Public Prosecutions, I should like to deprecate his being brought into matters which would not be within the existing regulations which cover his duties. With regard to other Departments, it is hardly for me to speak. I have really no knowledge of how prosecutions are conducted under the Poisons Act or under the Food and Drugs Acts.

THE CHAIRMAN SUMS UP.

The Chairman : I am sure the Committee will be unanimously of opinion that your evidence has been most interesting and valuable, and has been given with the greatest lucidity. I want to get one or two points simply stated. It is the case now that in order to have a successful prosecution in regard to the sale or advertisement of a drug, you first of all have to prove that the article will not have the effect promised; secondly, that the vendor knew this; thirdly, that the purchaser believed it would have the effect promised; fourthly, that the purchaser voluntarily comes forward to give evidence; fifthly, that the Director of Public Prosecutions, being unwilling to advertise a medicine, and being unwilling to act unless absolutely certain of the result of the prosecution, might require a number of witnesses to corroborate. Is it not surprising that under those circumstances there are ever any prosecutions at all?

Witness assented to each of the propositions laid down by the Chairman, and said the answer was that for drugs there were very few prosecutions.

The Chairman : Why are not a lying advertisement and a truthful analysis of themselves sufficient evidence?—Because that would not amount to obtaining money by false pretences, and I doubt whether it would amount to an attempt to obtain money by false pretences, on the ground that the evidence of the attempt might be too remote in law.

Mr. Lawson : Is that a decided case?—No. If you could show there are two people who are responsible for an advertisement of a drug that was worthless you could charge them with conspiring to defraud the public.

The Chairman : What class of people. The author of the notice and the printer, or the author and the manufacturer, or the author and the vendor?—Any two persons to whom knowledge of the falsity could be brought home.

You suggest that the prosecutions would succeed in the case of a lying advertisement if there were two persons?—It might.

Then why has not your Department acted in such a case?—Because we have not any sufficient evidence before us of such a nature.

If this Committee supplies you with a lying advertisement and a truthful analysis, would you act?—We should probably go to the Attorney-General for his directions. (Laughter.) If a number of people lost their money, or had been injured, it would be one thing, but mere publication of a false advertisement would not be a matter for us.

* At a subsequent stage Sir Henry Norman read to the witness from p. 446 of the *Diary* Section 5 of the Act to Suppress Indecent Advertisements, which cleared up some confusion as to what is or is not an offence under that Act.

Then I do not quite follow your remark that if two persons were concerned a prosecution might follow?—Evidence for a prosecution might follow. I do not say we would prosecute.

AN ADVERTISEMENT QUERIED.

I have before me an advertisement of a patent medicine, describing it as the only reliable and positive cure for neuralgia, rheumatism, lumbago, sciatica, and so forth. Suppose we had that analysed, and found that the statement had no basis whatever, and we requested our clerk to buy a bottle of this medicine for us and informed you, would you then take action?—Assuming you had got the evidence, the offence would be that of attempting to obtain money by false pretences from your clerk. Prosecution in connection with medicines is not a matter which has hitherto come within the purview of the Director, and if the Committee were to take such steps as you suggest, I am sure the Director would pay the greatest respect, and as I would consider he was acting outside his ordinary jurisdiction he would go to the Attorney-General. It is not the duty of the Director to prosecute. The phrase "Public Prosecutor," which is sometimes applied to the Director of Public Prosecutions, is rather misleading. The Director of Public Prosecutions does not occupy the same position as the Procurator-Fiscal in Scotland. His duties are regulated by Act of Parliament.

The Chairman: My object in asking this question is to find out whether the law as it at present stands is effective in any respect, or wholly ineffective, and it seems to me we are up against a legal quibble. Supposing, instead of asking the clerk, we were to find some poor person suffering very badly from rheumatism, and we gave him 2s. 9d. to buy a bottle, would it be evidence?—Yes.

In that case then we can cause you to prosecute—provided the analysis justifies it—the vendor of this particular medicine?—Yes, of obtaining money by false pretences.

Have you reason to believe such a prosecution would be successful, assuming the facts are as I suggest?—I think there are always difficulties.

Witness said that if a medicine were labelled, "The only reliable and positive cure for rheumatism," the statement would be so obviously untrue that the counsel for the defence in a prosecution would say: "Can any person suppose it was true?" That was the kind of argument that would be used before a jury.

Did you not say, in an answer to Mr. Glyn-Jones, that selling harmless stuff was not an offence?—Oh, no! I did not say that. I said it would influence the question of instituting a prosecution. If the stuff which was sold, though it did not in fact do the good it was advertised to be capable of doing, was harmless, the fact would influence the Director of Public Prosecutions as to whether or not he should bring on a prosecution.

SALE AND USE OF ABORTEFACIENTS.

The Chairman: I was thinking of what Mr. Justice Darling said that if, in fact, the stuff had been harmless, he considered the accused would have properly been indicted for obtaining money by false pretences?—Yes.

Then we must take it that, coming from so high an authority, that is a statement of importance?—You could prosecute for obtaining money by false pretences if you could get the evidence. I say in my proof of evidence, "There is reason to believe that the drugs which continue to be advertised in the least reputable newspapers are useless for the purpose for which they are advertised as being efficacious, and in this connection I would point out to the Committee the great difficulty of obtaining the evidence of the necessary complainant, owing to the fact that, with reference to prosecutions for false pretences in cases of this character, assuming it to be possible to get a woman to come forward and state that she purchased the drug in the belief that it would cause her miscarriage (whereas in fact it was of no value for that purpose), such women would be guilty of a criminal offence as an accomplice, and therefore her evidence would require corroboration. To find any complainant willing to give evidence of her own criminality is difficult enough, but even when she has been found it remains an obligation on the prosecution to corroborate her evidence in some material particular, an obligation which in such a case is by no means easy to fulfil."

You could not possibly have a clearer case than that where a woman asked for a supply of medicine for a particular purpose, giving details concerning her own imaginary daughter?—No.

Yet the prosecution failed. Why was that?—Because the Magistrates were divided. That is one of the elements which one has to consider. Very often you may get a quite clear case, but there is some factor in it which meets

with the disapproval of the tribunal. In that particular case it was a police trap, and for some reason or other police traps are not very popular in courts of justice. The Magistrates said—at least I suppose this is what they said—"This chemist was trapped into doing what he did." I confess I was surprised that the prosecution failed. It was an instance of the difficulties with which you are met in these cases.

Does it follow from that, in your opinion, that the existing law is inadequate to deal with these cases?—With drugs?

With the sale and advertisement of drugs?—I think it is. To deal with the advertisement of drugs it is inadequate.

And the sale of them?—Yes.

Speaking generally, but not exactly, the law is practically non-existent with regard to the sale and advertisement of patent and proprietary medicines?—Yes; one might say that. I would put it that the difficulty of successfully prosecuting in the case of a false statement in regard to the powers of a medicine is very considerable.

That is to say the law is practically non-existent?—Yes.

Or in other words, vendors of proprietary medicines can practically do what they like so long as they keep out of the bounds of gross and obvious offences?—Yes.

The Chairman: There is nothing in the law to prevent any person making up a mixture containing anything except obvious poisons, advertising it as a cure for any disease, and selling it broadcast on payment of stamp-duty?

Witness said it was possible to prosecute in a case such as that, provided somebody would come forward and say that they parted with their money on the faith of the statements made in the advertisement, and provided also that it was possible to prove that the person who sold the medicine knew that the drug was not capable of doing what he said it would.

But the difficulties are so great that whatever may be the case theoretically in law, as an abstract proposition practically the state of things is as I have said?—Yes.

At this stage Mr. Lawson asked witness if he realised that he had made a very serious statement in saying that there is no check upon fraud by owners of proprietary medicines, and witness said that he did not mean that, adding that whenever the Public Prosecutor is satisfied that money is being obtained by false pretences, action is taken.

ADVERTISEMENTS, TRUTH AND LYING.

Mr. Lawson submitted that it is not alteration of the law that is needed so much as better facilities for obtaining evidence for conviction under the present law.—Witness thought that the law could prohibit or qualify the advertising of patent medicines by laying down the conditions under which it would be permissible to advertise them, and he was proceeding to indicate conditions that might be made applicable to medicine advertisements when Mr. Lawson remarked (as Mr. Glyn-Jones also had done) that that might apply to every article of commerce, and witness admitted this.

Witness was then asked by the Chairman as to the conditions on which proprietary medicines are admitted into Australia. Witness pointed out that this is as regards importation, which is different from the publication of a description of articles in the newspaper, but he adhered to what he had said, that at present the law is greatly inadequate to deal with recognised evils.

Mr. Glyn-Jones then put several supplementary questions to Mr. Stephenson, and elicited the statement that it is not the business of any Government Department to ensure that people in commerce should tell the truth about their commodities, and it is only when a certain degree of lying is reached that they interfere. Mr. Glyn-Jones put to him a hypothetical case in which a person advertised a specific which he was satisfied in his own mind was the only reliable and positive cure, and he had evidence of hundreds of persons to that effect. Conviction would not be likely to follow prosecution in such a case, the witness said, and he thought there would be difficulty in getting legislation to put the liability on the vendor of a patent medicine, and he should be deemed to know the truth of the statement on the label as to its efficacy.

This subject was afterwards taken up by Dr. Chapple in the following questions and answers:

Dr. Chapple: You think that should be altered?—In this class of cases one can conceive of legislation laying the onus on the seller.

I understood you to say, in answer to Mr. Glyn-Jones, that provided the vendor believed that the remedy he sold would accomplish the end desired he should not be subject to prosecution?—Under the existing law.

Is it your opinion that that should still remain the law, and that you should excuse a vendor if he can show that he really believed the medicine had the virtue which he claimed?

Mr. Glyn-Jones: I said prosecution for fraud.

Witness said they might put on the vendor the onus of showing that he had certain grounds for the belief.

Mr. Lawson: As to the suggestion that the onus of proof should be shifted on to the vendor in the case of proprietary medicines, may I ask if there are any precedents for such legislation as that?—Witness said that he was talking of the general criminal law.

The Chairman: At present any prosecution in connection with these matters with which the Committee is concerned, except in the case of obvious and gross offences, is actually quite fortuitous?—Yes.

The Chairman expressed to the witness the very warm thanks of the Committee for his evidence, and the sitting closed.

Thursday's Evidence.

The Committee met again on Thursday, June 13, Sir Henry Norman in the chair. Other members present were Mr. Crawley, Dr. Chapple, Sir H. Dalziel, Mr. Glyn-Jones, Mr. Hadyn Jones, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Lynch, Sir Philip Magnus, and Mr. Newton.

MORE ABOUT THE B.P.

The first witness was Dr. Nestor Tirard, the medical editor of the British Pharmacopœia, who desired to supplement the evidence which he gave on May 16 (see *C. & D.*, May 18, index folio 744). He now said that when he was last before the Committee he did not know whether he had made it perfectly clear that so far as the Pharmacopœia was concerned all the knowledge which they had was placed at the disposal of the public. They continually published reports, such as on the solubility of various substances, the amount of ash, and the determination of arsenic. Those reports were published in the chemical journals, such as *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*.

Sir Philip Magnus: Are these reports more useful to druggists or to medical men?—To druggists. Replying to Mr. Glyn-Jones's question, the witness desired to say that the General Medical Council would agree to the establishment of a Government laboratory for the purpose of physiological standardising of drugs. There are certain tests involving vivisection or the experiments on the recently deceased dog which they could not expect chemists to perform. Chemists have neither the knowledge nor licence necessary. Such drugs as digitalis, for example, and vaccines and sera could be standardised in this laboratory. They would strongly oppose the publication of any official book which would supersede the British Pharmacopœia. What they really wanted amounted to a central station for standardisation, which would do for them what Kew does for certain classes of instruments. The material which they sent to that station would be sold with certificates similar to those issued at Kew, saying that it was of a certain standard and strength. He wished to add to his evidence the statement with regard to proprietary names that some names are proprietary in an almost fictitious sense. There is, for example, the name "tabloid," which is confined to one particular firm. There is nothing to prevent any chemists from producing something in a compressed form, and though it could not be called a tabloid, what would be to all intents and purposes a tabloid could be produced by any chemist.

In reply to Mr. Lynch, the witness said a station for standardisation would involve considerable expense, but he could not give any indication what that expense would be or what staff would be required. Patent medicines were often manufactured on a wholesale scale at huge works, but he could not see that that would in any way increase the difficulty of standardisation. It ought to be quite easy for the firm manufacturing on a large scale to measure the drugs employed with great accuracy. There would be quite as much risk of variation where medicine is manufactured on a small scale as where it is manufactured on a large scale. At present, no standard being fixed, there is neither certainty nor probability that the same standard is

observed in patent medicines. The question of the standardisation of Indian hemp is one he would have to leave to his chemical colleagues. Aspirin will probably be in the next Pharmacopœia, but not under that name, which is proprietary.

Mr. Lynch: Would it not be possible that in some medicines, such as antikamnia, the variation would be so great that there would be danger if a lay person dosed himself with them?—There is always danger in a lay person dosing himself with these patent medicines.

Do you not think that the Pharmacopœia should be published at more frequent intervals, say, once a year?—The witness replied that no advantage would be gained. They desired to obtain criticisms, and those criticisms had to be examined. It is very often found that those criticisms are wrong.

Mr. Lynch asked as to the responsibility of a medical man who used salvarsan, but witness said that is a legal question. Asked to make some suggestion to the Committee for legislation, Dr. Tirard said that his personal views were that the presence and amount of all scheduled poisons should be noted on the label. He would like also—but he was afraid that this is a counsel of perfection—to associate himself with the recommendation of the College of Physicians, that extravagant claims should not be made on behalf of patent medicines. The College of Physicians had asked that no statement of the disease or symptom which the medicine professes to cure should be submitted on the label. If you do that you kill the patent-medicine trade, for, unless there is some indication on the bottle of what the contents are supposed to do, there will be no sale for that article. This might possibly be circumvented, as, for instance, the "Wait-and-See" pill does not define the disease for which it is to be taken.

Dr. Chapple: This proposed laboratory is for the purpose of fixing the strength of drugs?—The strength of those which we cannot define accurately.

You do not suggest that it should have anything to do with ascertaining the medicinal value of drugs?—Nothing whatever.

In reply to further question by Dr. Chapple, the witness said the medical value of drugs is ascertained by continued observation. That observation as a rule was made by a number of observers in order to check the result. They required a large number of patients. They had to exclude all other drugs while they were testing one drug. They had to remove all vitiating circumstances, and to observe all the physiological responses. A hospital was practically the only place where that could be done. It would be of no value for a man who got a bottle of medicine from a chemist to return on the following day and say he was better. He might say that he had slept better, but the medicine might contain morphine, and the man might really be worse. The observations in the hospital had to be made by a large number of people in order to exclude the personal factor. They always used new drugs with a great deal of hope, and the only way to exclude the personal element is to have a large number of observers. The whole of the reliable knowledge which we had of drugs came from the medical profession.

Dr. Chapple: Is it not a fact that no medical man who makes a discovery claims any exclusive right to sell that drug to the public?—It is against the whole tradition of the profession.

Mr. Lawson: Does he take it to a commercial firm? (Laughter.)—No, he gets his reward from the satisfaction of well-doing.

In reply to further questions by Dr. Chapple, witness said he held very strong opinions with regard to the state of things under which it was possible that a man who had taken no part in the discovery of the value of a drug could claim the exclusive right to sell it to the public. Asked whether it was possible for a sufferer to derive benefit from newspaper advice, witness said it is quite possible that a sufferer might obtain advantage from advice of that kind, but it is unsound to place on the sufferer the diagnosing his own complaint. Seeing that medical men almost invariably went wrong in diagnosing their own complaint, it was not likely that a layman would be right.

The Chairman asked in regard to the circulation of the British Pharmacopœia, which witness thought was about 40,000 copies. The sale of the Pharmacopœia is not the principal source of income of the General Medical Council;

it only meets the expenses, and even then but small amounts are paid to those who do the work of revision.

Mr. Newton, referring to witness's evidence on the previous occasion that proprietary medicines containing poisons were imitated, asked if witness had not overlooked several cases of proprietary articles which did not contain poisons?

—Dr. Tirard said they introduced a tar-solution, not, of course, identical, but analogous to a well-known article.

Mr. Newton: Do the following contain poisons: Pond's extract, Dinneford's fluid magnesia, Wright's liquor carbonis detergens, Benger's liquor pancreaticus, and Schacht's liquor bismuthi?—They do not contain poisons, but the Pharmacopœia had no idea of producing anything analogous to such things as Schacht's bismuth. Anyone can make a bismuth solution.

Mr. Lawson: Yours is a rival solution.

Dr. Tirard: I must protest against that. Rivalry suggests advantage, which is certainly not in view in the Pharmacopœia.

Mr. Newton: What about Pond's extract; isn't that a hamamelis preparation?—I do not know that, but if you say so I accept it. We should not willingly incorporate such an article unless the profession wanted it.

Mr. Newton: People who have spent a lot of money on introducing a preparation are grieved to find that as soon as a reputation is made it is introduced into the Pharmacopœia?—I don't agree. We are approached by manufacturers from time to time to place their remedies in the Pharmacopœia, but I cannot disclose their names as these are private interviews.

Mr. Glyn-Jones asked in regard to the Pharmacopœia as a standard under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and, referring to a paragraph on ginger in one of the reports, said he noticed that it was stated there was need for further pharmaceutical research. The names of Naylor and Unney were mentioned, which seemed to show that work was done by wholesale firms voluntarily. Was it because of absence of funds that this was not undertaken by the General Medical Association?—No. Since the report referred to a Committee of Reference has been appointed through the cordiality of the Pharmaceutical Council. This committee does a good deal of loyal work, and he wished to give them credit for the work, for which only nominal payment is made. The reports on solubility, ash and arsenic determination were paid for.

In the main the standards in the Pharmacopœia are the result of voluntary work?—Yes.

Could not this work be undertaken by the Government?—Yes, it could be done.

Witness promised to supply the Committee with an account of the revenue and expenditure on producing the Pharmacopœia.

Mr. Lawson said witness had started several new subjects which require further elucidation.

The Chairman thought it better that Dr. Tirard should attend again before the Committee.

Mr. Lawson: May I ask one question? Isn't it a fact that the Vaseline people are advertising that the Pharmacopœia authorities applied to them for permission to put vaseline in the Pharmacopœia, and were refused because it would deprive them of their rights?—Oh! that is absolutely untrue. I believe the proprietary rights have expired.

PRIVILEGED STATEMENTS.

Dr. Alfred Cox, Medical Secretary of the British Medical Association, was then called. He said he wanted to know first of all whether the memorandum of his evidence in print with which he had furnished the Committee, and anything said by him and others before the Committee, would be strictly privileged, as the Association did not wish to have cases of libel hanging over their heads.

The Chairman said he had anticipated the question, and in view of its importance had consulted the Speaker of the House of Commons. On the authority of the Speaker, evidence given and documents handed in by witnesses were privileged in the sense, that if a witness were to be cited before any court of law for any statement he might make or furnish, or which was printed in the official report of these proceedings, that citation would be a breach of the privileges of the House of Commons, and the House would protect him; but if a witness before the Committee made a false statement he was liable to be punished by the House of Commons, and if the false statement was made on oath and wilfully he was also liable to penalties under the Perjury Act.

Mr. McKenna, who was present as representing the London Chamber of Commerce, asked if he could make a statement, but the Chairman said he could not allow it.

Dr. Cox then proceeded to read from the printed memorandum, in order that the Committee might have the matter contained therein as evidence.

The evidence of the Association was divided into two parts, the first dealing with the advertisement, sale, and use of proprietary medicines, medical preparations, and appliances in relation to health; and the second dealing with the proposals of the Association as regards the future. Under Part I. the memorandum dealt with the injury to health resulting from the advertisement and use of proprietary medicines and appliances under the head of direct injury and indirect injury. Evidence as to the amount of direct injury was scanty. The greater number of instances of injury arising from the use of patent medicines and appliances must be placed under this heading, the injury being due to their being substituted for proper medical treatment. The great reliance placed by a large section of the public on patent medicines can be traced either to the innate love of the miraculous of the average human mind, or to the impression made on ignorant people by the character of the advertisements. These are drawn up with great skill and subtlety, seizing on certain common symptoms and exaggerating them, and, in order to work on the fears and emotions of nervous people, alleged successes of the remedy are described and absolute cure is often guaranteed. Examples of such remedies were given in the Appendix.

The evidence dealt with alleged cures for cancer, consumption, diabetes, eczema, goitre, and rupture, and cited examples. The "Cancer Curer," said witness, traded on the natural aversion to operation, and usually employed caustic preparations or ointments, which aggravated the sufferings caused by the disease, and were useless. Evidence was also given regarding consumption-cures and cures for rupture. The danger of leaving off wearing a truss was mentioned. Indirect injury is done to the individual and the community by expenditure on worthless proprietary remedies, which could better be employed in the support of the patient or his dependents. It is estimated that the amount of money spent in these remedies in Great Britain in 1908 was 2,500,000*l.*, a sum sufficient to maintain 40,000 hospital or sanatorium beds.

In reply to the Chairman, witness said this was the estimate of a medical practitioner at Bradford-on-Avon, and it seemed to him a moderate estimate. To a further question as to the cost of making proprietary medicines, Dr. Cox said he had tons of evidence, and Mr. Harrison, who made the analyses for the Association, will give evidence on this point.

THE QUESTION OF MORALITY.

Dealing with the effect of the traffic on the Press and on the public, witness said the Association realised that its campaign against the patent-medicine traffic is invested with peculiar difficulties, inasmuch as the Press, to which the Association would naturally look for help in exposing the real nature of this traffic, will not assist in such an exposure, because it is, with a few honourable exceptions, deeply implicated in the traffic. The Association also desired to call attention to the very large number of advertisements relating to the removal of female "irregularities," which really means to prevent pregnancy. Fraud is perpetrated on the public in connection with proprietary medicines and appliances in the following ways:

- (a) Grossly exaggerated statements as to the curative properties of the remedy, or the efficacy of the appliance;
- (b) False statements as to the nature and properties of the drugs composing the remedy.

Reference was made to the Corassa-powders case and the Bile-bean case in Edinburgh in 1906.

Witness then referred to the publication of "Secret Remedies," which he stated had been badly treated by the Press. Some newspapers refused advertisements of the book, and but little result followed the sending out of the book for review.

The lunch adjournment then took place.

THE ASSOCIATION'S SUGGESTIONS.

After luncheon witness continued his evidence, and after reviewing the present state of the law, made the following suggestions:

(1) That for medicines which are supplied otherwise than upon medical, dental, or veterinary prescription, no condition of sale short of the publication on each package of medicine of the name and quantity of each of its constituents should be permitted.

(2) That the label should be made to constitute a warranty, and that false description, whether on a label or in an advertisement, should be made an offence.

(3) That the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts should be applied to proprietary medicines.

(4) That legislation should be promoted that would make it the duty of the Home Secretary or other authority to institute prosecutions when the conditions of sale of proprietary remedies did not comply with the foregoing suggested regulations.

(5) That the Indecent Advertisements Act should be amended in accordance with the suggestions made by the Association in its memorial to the Home Secretary.

Witness was then cross-examined, first in public and then in private, after which the Committee adjourned until Tuesday next.

An Unusual Debt-case.

At the Southwark County Court on June 13, Registrar Bros had before him the case of W. W. Flood & Co., wholesale druggists, 56 Great Dover Street, London, S.E., against Charles Aubrey Lewis, trading as Bosustow's Drug-stores, High Road, Chiswick. The points involved were these. Messrs. Flood & Co. sued defendant on April 22 last for an account. They obtained judgment on May 14, and execution took place on May 22. On May 18 a bill of sale on defendant was enforced. Plaintiffs asked the Registrar to obtain from the defendant an explanation as to what had been done with the money realised under the bill of sale. Mr. J. W. Ramsden, representing plaintiffs, was about to question him, when a gentleman acting on behalf of defendant raised the objection that an examination such as the one proposed must be undertaken by a solicitor or counsel acting on behalf of a plaintiff, and quoted a case, describing it as "*Reeves v. Fowle*," in support of his contention. Mr. Ramsden, he said, not being a solicitor or a counsel, could not examine defendant on any point. Mr. Registrar Bros spent some time in ascertaining the authority for the objection, and, after remarking that the point was new to him, said he could not find any legal decision of the High Court by which the objection could be supported. Defendant, in reply to questions put to him by Mr. Ramsden, admitted the facts of the case as mentioned. The bill of sale, he said, was executed in favour of a brother—not the one with whom he was in partnership up to a few months ago. The amount advanced under it was 400*l*. Mr. Ramsden inquired what defendant had done with that amount, when the defendant's solicitor objected to the question, describing it as a very "improper" one. The Registrar: "He may ask any question he likes, no matter how grievous it may be to the person concerned. Lord James says: 'An examination may be, and is intended to be, a cross-examination of the severest kind, to endeavour to ascertain the true facts.' That injunction applies in this case. The questions may be very unpleasant, but they have to be answered." Pressed for a reply to Mr. Ramsden's question, defendant confessed, "I have spent it." "You did not attempt to satisfy our judgment against you out of the amount?" interrogated Mr. Ramsden. "There were previous judgments against me," defendant evasively answered. Further questioned, defendant stated that he kept no books, and that his bank-book showed a balance of only 3*s*. He might have purchased goods to the value of 500*l*. or 600*l*. during the last two months, but could not say definitely in the absence of his invoices. Asked why he did not produce these in view of the notice given him to do so, defendant replied that he did not regard these as being included within the term "books and documents." In reply to the pertinent question from Mr. Ramsden, "What have you done with the goods you obtained during the past two months?" the answer came from the defendant, "I sold them over the counter." "Then what have you done with the money you drew from over the counter?" persisted Mr. Ramsden. "I have spent it," was the response. "What on?" "In paying debts. I have had to live, and then there were other things." Further examined, defendant confessed: "I have been in moneylenders' hands all my life." He acknowledged there were a few who owed him money, and expressed his willingness to give the names and addresses to Mr. Ramsden. The examination was adjourned.

SUMMER OUTINGS. —

Boots' Stocktakers' Outing.—The stocktakers of Boots Cash Chemists, Ltd., visited London on June 3, the gathering being organised by Messrs. R. P. Crecraft, of Nottingham, and H. W. Scurr, of London. After visiting the London warehouses, the party of about forty, which was drawn from all over the Kingdom, had lunch, and then spent an enjoyable afternoon at the Latin-British Exhibition. This was followed by a dinner at the Ship Restaurant, Whitehall. The affair is to be an annual one.

Derby Chemists' Association.—On June 5 the President entertained the members and friends to tea at the Belper River Gardens. The weather cleared up just before the time to start, and a large number availed themselves of the opportunity of spending an afternoon in the country.



[Photo by Mr. E. E. Bowler, Belper.]

Among those present were Mr. Southern (President), Messrs. Elmitt, Machon, Haynes, Churchill, Weston, Daykin Turner, Bowler, Bowler, jun., Readman, Hefford, Goodwin, Calvert, Birkinshaw, Fletcher, Stevenson, and Riley (Hon. Secretary). A feature of the afternoon was a visit to the new factory of the English Sewing Cotton Co., where glazing and packing sewing-cotton were explained by the manager. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Southern for the enjoyable afternoon they had arranged.

At Arundel.—Friday, June 7, was not the best of days for a summer outing, but it was the day that the staffs at 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., had selected for their outing. In a comfortable and expeditious journey from London Bridge to Arundel the rain was almost forgotten, and what remained of the thought of it vanished during luncheon, which was served in the Norfolk Hotel. Here Mr. Penry Vaughan Morgan presided, Messrs. Millington and Stainforth being in the vice-chairs. After luncheon due honour was paid to the King, and the toast of "The Firm" was proposed by Mr. William Chalmers. In acknowledging the hearty reception of the toast, Mr. Morgan mentioned a few of the more prominent happenings in connection with the office. Referring to the future, he mentioned the interesting fact that Mr. Henry Walker, publisher of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*, will ere long complete fifty years' service with Messrs. Morgan Bros., and there are others in the counting-house who are approaching their jubilees. The committee having been thanked, the



[Photo by Allison.
FROM A CHEMIST'S WINDOW.]

company strolled through Arundel, and made the most of their time and opportunities. One of the *C. & D.* staff called on Mr. W. B. Allison, whose back windows overlook Arundel Castle, and the fine photograph which we reproduce was taken from one of them. It shows how Mr. Allison's garden is divided from the Duke of Norfolk's grounds by a modest brick wall. Is there another pharmacy in England so pleasantly situated? Mr. Allison was for eighteen years dispenser at the North Staffordshire Infirmary, then was ten years in business on his own account at Stoke-on-Trent before going to Arundel a few years ago. There Mrs. Allison and he have Nature at its best, Mr. Allison having fine scope for his camera work, and many beautiful specimens of the architectural and scenic features of the district has he published. Pharmaceutical visitors to the town should not fail to call upon him, and chat if business permits. Returning to the "42" people, we need only add that after a strawberry tea they had music and dancing in the Norfolk Hotel, and returned to London mostly by the 8.18 p.m. train, having spent a happy day.

ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS.

Brief Records.

Western Chemists' Association.—At the first committee-meeting of the session, held on July 12, the following officers were appointed: *President*, Mr. C. T. Allen; *Vice-President*, Mr. J. D. Marshall; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. H. Raithby Procter; *Hon. Secretaries*, Messrs. A. Latreille and R. E. Lownsbrough.

Great Yarmouth Pharmaceutical Association.—The monthly meeting was held on June 5 at 156 King Street. The President (Mr. W. G. Poll) was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. T. B. Male, J. S. Shearman, Harvey Palmer, H. E. Goddard, F. E. Whiffeld, and A. E. Richmond. The chief business was the making of the final arrangements for the annual outing to Potter Heigham on June 20.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.—A meeting was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on June 7, Mr. Henry Stout (President) in the chair. Mr. E. J. Brown gave a lecture on "Classification," which was followed by a practical demonstration on plants, collected by the President and Mr. Handley, by Mr. J. Rutherford Hill. Votes of thanks were awarded to Mr. Brown and Mr. Rutherford Hill.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.—A council-meeting was held at 73 Newman Street, London, W., on June 6, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing session: *President*, Mr. P. B. Phillips; *Vice-Presidents*, Messrs. W. P. Styles and F. W. Crossley-Holland; *Hon. Vice-President*, Mr. F. Naylor; *Hon. Secretaries—Literary*, Mr. W. Roberts, and *Financial*, Mr. A. Haigh; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. E. Thompson; *Pharmaceutical Recorder*, Mr. E. H. Brittain; *Hon. Auditors*, Messrs. R. E. Lownsbrough and A. Latreille. Messrs. F. Naylor and M. Daniels were appointed delegates to the forthcoming meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in Edinburgh.

Lewisham Pharmacists' Association.—At an organisation meeting, called to hear Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock, held at the Roebuck Hotel, Lewisham, London, S.E., on June 12, it was decided to form an Association of Pharmacists for the district extending between Woolwich and Croydon. There were about fifty chemists present. Mr. W. C. Sayers presiding. The Chairman was appointed the first President of the Association, and Mr. J. R. Fairweather consented to act as Secretary *pro tem*. A committee was appointed of representatives from the various districts covered by the Association. Mr. Woolcock addressed the meeting on National Health Insurance and the Federation Scheme.

Newport (Mon.) Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held on June 10, when there were present Messrs. Gratte (President), Giles, Williams, Menhinick, Findlay, Badgett, Paine, Lewis, and Lloyd Jones (Hon. Secretary). The first matter was the appointment of two members for the local committee under the National Insurance Act, and the President and Secretary were unanimously selected for the position. A request was received from Mr. J. B. Francis, Hon. Secretary of the National Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee of Wales, that every registered pharmacist in Wales should subscribe 2s. 9d. towards the preliminary expenses. The meeting agreed to this.

Coventry Pharmacists' Association.—The inaugural supper and smoking-concert of this Association took place at the King's Head Hotel on June 6. The President (Mr. J. W. Axford) occupied the chair, and proposed the health of Colonel W. F. Wyley, Mayor of Coventry, who was the

guest of the evening. Mr. Axford adduced reasons for the formation of the Association and the advantages to the members of being organised. Colonel Wyley, in response, promised to become a honorary member, feeling it was particularly appropriate for him to do so as head of the firm of Messrs. Wyleys, Ltd., manufacturing chemists. Mr. Henry Welton proposed the health of "The Visitors," and thanked those gentlemen who had contributed to the musical programme. Mr. H. Cleland and Mr. W. W. Cheshire responded.

Thames Valley Pharmacists' Association.—The annual meeting was held at the Thames Valley Café, Kingston-on-Thames, on June 6. Owing to the indisposition of the President (Mr. Harvey, Surbiton), the chair was occupied by Mr. Alfred Higgs, J.P. (Kingston), Hon. Treasurer. Among those present were Messrs. Booth, Batty, Beveridge, and Clarke (Surbiton), Clement (Hampton), Neathercoat (Weybridge), and W. Peake (Twickenham), Hon. Secretary. The Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports were read and adopted; the balance in hand was 13l. 6s. 4d. The committee was re-elected. The meeting then considered and agreed to the revision of certain rules. Five guineas was voted to the Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee (England). The meeting then went into committee to hear an address by Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock on the National Insurance Act.

Grimsby Pharmacists' Association.—A meeting was held at the Oberon Hotel last week, Mr. Cor. Willson (President) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. T. D. Sneath, H. W. Colley, R. C. Johnson, W. G. Robinson, H. W. Hawdon, with the Secretary (C. H. Ashton). A local committee in connection with the National Insurance Act was appointed as follows: Messrs. Humphrey (Cleethorpes), Willson, Sneath, Ashton, and Colley (Grimsby), Dennis (Louth), and Watson (Caistor). The question of joining the Chemists' Friendly Society was considered, and it was decided to ask the Secretary to get more information from both the Friendly Society and the Insurance Commissioners in London. In regard to the *Shops Act*, the Secretary explained that there had been some difficulty in drawing up the petition to the Town Council, but that has been overcome, and it is hoped to have it ready for the next meeting. Mr. Colley said that Thursday is the day favoured as the half-holiday.

Huddersfield Chemists' Association.—A meeting was held on June 11, when there were present Messrs. J. B. Wood (President, in the chair), Walshaw, Woolhouse, Broadbent, Spurr, Russell, Cooper (Hon. Secretary), France, Johnson, West, V. Shaw, and Pickering. In response to circulars issued by the Hon. Secretary it was stated that so far replies had been received showing that there are only three probable students for the pharmaceutical classes at the technical college, whereas six are required to constitute a class. It was resolved to notify to the proper quarter in regard to the *Shops Act* that the chemists' half-holiday closing-day in the Huddersfield borough would be Wednesday from 1 p.m. In regard to earlier closing of shops on other days, the closing will be from Monday to Thursday, 8 p.m.; Friday, 8.30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 p.m. Messrs. Walshaw and Wood were nominated for election on the Local Insurance Committee under the National Insurance Act. It was agreed to hold the picnic of the Association on July 17 to Bolton Woods.

Northern Association of Pharmacists.—A meeting of pharmacists of the four divisions of Islington was held in the Council Chamber, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on June 6. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Holding, Divisional Secretary for West Islington. The object of the meeting was principally to consider the *Shops Act*, and after a discussion it was resolved that the chemists' shops in Islington be closed on Thursdays at 1 p.m., and that application be made for a compulsory closing order. In the meantime the closing is to be voluntary. The following signed the resolution: Messrs. J. B. Noble, J. Skewes, Wm. Felton, A. T. C. Tuffin, J. Basdon Smith, A. C. Bennett, S. W. A. Armstrong (Pasmore & Co., Ltd.), A. Thorley, Thos. Clayton, Ernest A. Brown, John C. Carter, E. R. Carpenter (Boots, Ltd.), Fredk. Palmer, D. Davies, A. Moore, Robert Vincent (Bishops), Chas. R. Sims, H. M. Withington (Boots, Ltd.), Arthur Smith, E. H. Lacey, and Bailey (Joseph Heale). It was finally decided to form a Northern Association of Pharmacists of London, Mr. Skinner, Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway Road, N., being appointed Hon. Secretary *pro tem*.

Preston Chemists' Association.—The annual general meeting was held at the Crown Hotel on June 4, the following members being present: Messrs. Burnett, Williamson, W. F. Livesey, G. F. Livesey, Arkle, Hindle, Emmet, Thomas, Greenwood, Hadfield, Fisher, Howard, Walsmsley, Pomfret, and Freeman. The report of the Hon. Secretary (Mr. H. S. Freeman) was a review of the year's work. This

was adopted unanimously. The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. F. Hindle) presented his financial statement, which was considered satisfactory, and Mr. W. F. Livesey was elected as Auditor to audit the accounts and report to the next meeting. Mr. J. E. Walker was unanimously elected as Honorary President of the Association, and voting papers for the election of the Executive Committee were issued and returned. Messrs. Fisher and Thomas were elected to act as scrutineers. The Executive Committee elected is as follows: *Honorary President*, Mr. J. E. Walker; *President*, Mr. S. H. Hadfield; *Vice-President*, Mr. J. F. Burnett; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. F. Hindle; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. H. S. Freeman; and Messrs. F. Mercer and W. F. Livesey. The retiring Executive Committee and the scrutineers were thanked for their services. It was decided to hold a picnic about the first week in July, the Secretary being requested to arrange for same along with the committee.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association.—The quarterly meeting was held in Robert Gordon's Technical College on Wednesday, June 5, Mr. D. Anderson (President) in the chair. The first business was the presentation of prizes to the evening-class students of the School of Pharmacy—viz.:

Practical Chemistry.—First prize, Angus Garden; second prize, Wm. Spence and Chas. Anderson, equal.

Theoretical Chemistry.—(First year's students) First prize, Geo. Alexander; second prize, Robert Burr; (second year's students) first prize, Angus Garden; second prize, Adam A. Meldrum.

Botany.—(First year's students) First prize, Geo. Alexander; second prize, Robt. Burr; (second year's students) first prize, Jas. Thomson; second prize, Angus Garden.

Mr. J. F. Tocher, B.Sc., who set the questions and examined the papers, addressed the students, congratulating them on the high standard of the papers, particularly in practical chemistry, where many of the students took a high percentage of marks. Mr. Angus Garden replied. It was arranged that an inquiry should be made as to those intending to join the panel for pharmacy service under the Insurance Act. Messrs. Anderson, Giles, Kay, Reith, and Tocher were appointed delegates to the B.P.C. meeting in Edinburgh in July. It was remitted to the Entertainments Committee to arrange for an afternoon excursion to Craigellaehie on July 19.

Dewsbury Pharmacists' Association.—A special meeting was held at the Church House on June 10 for the purpose of considering matters relating to the Health Committees under the National Insurance Act. Councillor A. B. Barker presided, and there were also present Messrs. G. N. Gutteridge, R. Broadhead, R. Gledhill, J. Rhodes, H. Mortimer, G. Butterfield, W. Blakeley, and J. Day, with the Secretary (Mr. R. J. H. Day). A letter from the Chemists' Friendly Society on the subject of National Insurance was allowed to lie on the table. The Secretary reported that he had written to the various local authorities asking what steps had been taken to secure direct representation of chemists on local Health Committees, and he had received the following replies:

Osselt: Nothing whatever has been done in the matter.

Mirfield: Should any committee hereafter be formed in Mirfield by the Council your letter shall be borne in mind.

West Riding C.C.: The consideration of the subject of a provisional Insurance Committee has been referred to the Public Health and Housing Committee. Your letter has been noted.

Morley: The Town Council have taken no steps to secure direct representation of chemists.

Dewsbury: No steps have been taken in the direction indicated in your letter.

Cleckheaton: I will see your letter receives attention at the proper time.

Batley: The General Purposes Committee are awaiting a communication from the county authority on the subject.

The matter was discussed at considerable length, and a method of procedure agreed upon.

PROFESSOR J. NORMAN COLLIE, Ph.D., LL.D., F.R.S., has been appointed Director of the Chemistry Laboratories at University College, London, in succession to Professor Sir William Ramsay, as from September 1.

At a PRIVATE MEETING of the creditors of Mr. David Hughes, chemist and druggist, 45 High Street, Holywell, Flint, held on June 7, it was resolved that a composition of 12s. in the pound, payable within twenty-eight days, and guaranteed by Mr. John Williams, the accountant who prepared the statement of affairs, be accepted. The statement of affairs showed preferential creditors, 32*l.*; fully secured creditors, 510*l.*; liabilities, 520*l.* 13s. 6*d.*; and assets (after deducting preferential claims), 388*l.* The creditors include: Wyleys, Ltd., Coventry (40*l.*); R. Sumner & Co., Liverpool (4*l.* 10s.); John Thompson, Liverpool (35*l.* 4s. 9*d.*); Clay, Dod & Co., Liverpool (34*l.* 4s.); Ayrton, Saunders & Co., Liverpool (19*l.*); B. Robinson, Manchester (17*l.* 0s. 9*d.*); Blyton, Astley & Co., Manchester (11*l.* 14s. 9*d.*).

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., June 13.

THE continuance of the transport strike and the application of its wider scope have had a lamentable effect on business again this week, so much so that the usual fortnightly auctions of drugs were abandoned, it being impossible to obtain delivery of goods for sampling purposes. Private business has been affected in a similar manner, and the docks and wharves are in a state of chaos. Such lines of chemicals in everyday use as citric and tartaric acids and cream of tartar are practically unobtainable at the moment. With an advancing market for opium, morphine has followed with an advance of 3*d.*, and codeine is likely to follow. Santonin is also expected to advance. Bromides are also very firm and in good demand. Cocaine hydrochlor. has been reduced 9*d.* from its previous nominal figure. Cod-liver oil is unaltered. Quicksilver is 5s. lower, and mercurials follow with 1*d.* per lb. reduction. Copper sulphate is dearer. Milk-sugar is firm, and last week's advance in lemon oil is well maintained. Prices for new otto are not yet fixed, but higher prices are now asked for last season's oil. Rhubarb has advanced 2*d.*, senega is firmer, and turpentine lower. The principal changes of the week have been as follows:

| Higher | Firmer | Easier | Lower |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Balsam tolu | Menthol | Ammonia sulphate | Cocaine hydrochlor. |
| Copper sulphate | Pepper Saffron | Castor oil (Eng.) | Linseed oil |
| Lemon oil | Senega | Ergot | Mercurials |
| Morphine salts | Soya oil | Glucose | Quicksilver |
| Otto of rose | | Orange oil | Turpentine |
| Rhubarb | | Starch | |
| Wax, Paraffin | | powder | |

Cablegrams.

BERGEN, June 13.—The cod-fishing at Finmarken is now decreasing. Market for finest non-congealing Norwegian oil is quiet at about 59s. per barrel, c.i.f. terms.

SMYRNA, June 10.—American buyers and speculators are purchasing all the opium offering, including 10 per cent. at 19s. 6*d.* and 11 per cent. at 21s. 6*d.* per lb. With continued drought the deficit is becoming larger.

NEW YORK, June 13.—Business in drugs is fair. Opium has advanced 50c. per lb. to \$6.50 per lb. for druggists' quality in single cases. Peppermint oil in tins is steady at \$2.80, and tolu balsam has advanced to \$1 per lb. Cartagena ipecac is steady at \$1.90 per lb. Curaçao aloes is firm at 9½c., and copaiba is firmer at 50c. for Central and South American. Buchu has advanced a further 5c. to \$1.50 for round. Cascara sagrada is steady at 8½c. per lb.

London Markets.

ACETANILIDE remains very cheap, the value of crystals in 1-cwt. kegs being 9½*d.* and powder 10*d.* per lb.

AMMONIA SULPHATE.—Dull and easier. Grey 25 per cent., London, 13*l.* 15s. to 13*l.* 16s. 3*d.* for prompt; Hull, 14*l.* 10s. prompt; Leith, 14*l.* 13s. 9*d.* to 14*l.* 15s. prompt;

Liverpool, 14*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* to 15*l.* prompt; Beekton, 25 per cent., 14*l.* 5*s.* prompt.

ANISE OIL (STAR).—Business has been done in "Red Ship" brand to arrive at 5*s.* 1*d.* per lb. c.i.f.; the spot price is 5*s.* 1*d.*

ANISEED is quietly steady, a few small sales of Russian being reported at 25*s.* 6*d.* to 26*s.* per cwt.

BALSAM TOLU can be bought at 3*s.*, but one holder asks 3*s.* 3*d.*; this is an advance of 2*d.*

BROMIDES.—Very firm. In anticipation of higher prices later, a good business has been done at the full Convention rates for prompt delivery only.

CANARY-SEED is firm at last quotations, 50*s.* to 51*s.* per quarter for ordinary and 55*s.* for good Morocco. Offers of new-crop Turkish have been withdrawn owing to weather conditions.

CARAWAY-SEED is firm at 32*s.* 6*d.* to 34*s.* per cwt. for ordinary to good Dutch.

CASTOR OIL.—The Liverpool market for good seconds *Calcutta* is firmer, with sellers of a limited quantity at 4½*d.* per lb., and for first pressing *Belgian* 3½*d.* is asked. *Hull* make is slightly easier, first pressing in barrels is offered at 29*l.* per ton for prompt to December, delivered free on wharf London. *Belgian* firsts is also easier at 29*l.* 5*s.* for prompt and forward, ex wharf London.

CHAMOMILES.—The new crop of Belgian flowers will not be ready until the end of July, but present indications are for a good crop; meanwhile 132*s.* 6*d.* remains the spot price.

CHLOROFORM.—For some considerable time past (says a German report) the price had been kept at a low level due to sharp competition. This state of affairs started early in 1911, and the market had become fairly accustomed to prices ranging from 140*m.* to 160*m.*, so that a change was hardly foreseen. But now special circumstances have arisen which have imposed on makers the necessity of taking steps to enforce better prices, and they have recently advanced prices by 20*m.* per 100 kilos.

CINCHONA.—At the bark sale at Amsterdam to-day the opening unit was 4.35*c.* The final result, if in time, will be found in our Coloured Supplement.

CITRIC ACID.—Prices are quotably unaltered, but owing to the strike there is a scarcity for prompt delivery, and dealers are able to obtain a premium on quoted rates. The same applies to tartaric acid and cream of tartar.

CITRONELLA OIL.—Ceylon is quoted on spot at 1*s.* 2*d.* in cases and 1*s.* 0½*d.* in drums; June-July shipment offering at 1*s.* c.i.f.

COCAINE.—The makers' prices for hydrochloride, which have been nominal for some months past, have this week been reduced by 9*d.* per oz., now making the price for 175-oz. lots on contract 6*s.* 7*d.* less 5 per cent. The reason for the reduction will be found below.

A German report reviewing the situation during May states that the large stocks of crude cocaine at Hamburg were the cause of a further reduction in prices, and second-hand holders, having become nervous, endeavoured to sell at a sacrifice, thus contributing to the depressed market. Makers were therefore forced to take this situation into account. From another source we understand that crude has been offered as low as 200*m.* without business resulting.

COD-LIVER OIL is unaltered, with the usual brands of non-freezing Norwegian oil offering at from 58*s.* 6*d.* to 60*s.* per barrel c.i.f. terms.

According to cabled advices received from Norway, the catch of cod and output of cod-liver oil up to June 8 were as follows:

| | | Catch of Cod | Livers for Raw Oils (hect.) | Yield of c.l.o. (hect.) |
|---------------------|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Finmarken, 1912 | ... | 32,327,000 | ... 25,139 | ... 23,301 |
| " " 1911 | ... | 27,273,000 | ... 6,854 | ... 17,740 |
| Whole country, 1912 | ... | 94,840,000 | ... 30,722 | ... 72,350 |
| " " 1911 | ... | 61,900,000 | ... 12,118 | ... 41,499 |

Our Bergen correspondent writes on June 10 that the Finmarken cod-fishing continues, although the number of fishermen taking part in it is now rapidly decreasing. To-

day's report gives the following total results of all the Norwegian fisheries:

| | 1909 | 1910 | 1911 | 1912 |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Catch of cod (millions) | ... 55.1 | 54.0 | 61.9 | 94.8 |
| Yield of c.l.o. (hect.) | ... 49,100 | 40,000 | 41,500 | 72,350 |
| Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) | 26,800 | 17,200 | 12,100 | 30,700 |

The market is quiet, and very little business is being done. The quotation for finest non-congealing Lofoten oil is 59*s.* per barrel c.i.f. terms. The total export of cod-liver oil from Norway up to May 25 is 17,603 barrels.

CODEINE.—As previously announced, this was reduced to 16*s.* 8*d.* for 100-oz. contracts of the pure crystals; but with the advance in opium the situation has changed and an advance is freely talked of.

COPPER SULPHATE has advanced 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton, ordinary Liverpool brands being quoted 24*l.* 10*s.* per ton for prompt, and 24*l.* 15*s.* for July-August delivery.

CORIANDER-SEED is dull of sale, but quotations are unchanged at 13*s.* 9*d.* to 14*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for Morocco.

CUMIN-SEED sells very slowly at 23*s.* to 24*s.* per cwt. for Morocco and 28*s.* for Malta.

DIACETYL MORPHINE-HYD.—Makers reduced their price to 14*s.* 10*d.* per oz. net, but subsequently with the advance in morphine, price advanced 1*s.* to 15*s.* 10*d.*

ERGOT is tending easier; for sound Spanish 3*s.* 9*d.* has been paid on the spot, and for Russian 2*s.* 11*d.* to 3*s.* is quoted. German is 2*s.* 9*d.* A German report states that transactions are only small, and for Russian 6.25*m.* was paid, Spanish realising 8*m.* per kilo. No business is reported in German; spot ex Hamburg warehouse is obtainable at 5.50*m.* and this rate might be shaded.

EUCALYPTUS OIL has been sold more freely, and prices are firm on Australian advices that higher figures may be expected later; business has been done at 1*s.* 2*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb. spot, according to test.

FENUGREEK-SEED is steady, with sales at 9*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for Morocco and 10*s.* for small lots.

GALLS are quiet, with Persian blue offering at 50*s.* and green at 46*s.* on the spot.

GAMBOGE.—The exports from Saigon during 1911 amounted to 2½ tons.

GLUCOSE.—Although the official price for American liquid has been reduced to 14*s.* per cwt., dealers have obtained up to 14*s.* 4½*d.* for small lots for prompt delivery, this being due to the transport strike. *Starch-powder* has been reduced to 12*s.* 7½*d.*, but here again a slight premium has to be paid for urgent requirements.

HONEY.—The sales in Liverpool include about 100 barrels Chilean pile 3 at 26*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. c.i.f. terms. Owing to the transport strike the supplies of Jamaica and other descriptions which have arrived in the Thames were not available for sampling purposes for public auction.

INSECT-FLOWERS remain firm, agents quoting 165*s.* per cwt. for fairly good closed, 175*s.* for best closed, down to 65*s.* all c.i.f. for open flowers.

IPCACUANHA.—Very quiet. Matto Grosso is quoted 8*s.* 9*d.*, Minas 8*s.* 6*d.*, Cartagena 7*s.* 6*d.*, and Johore 9*s.* per lb.

JALAP.—Business has been done at 10½*d.* per lb. on the spot, without test.

LIME-JUICE.—Fair arrivals are taking place from the West Indies, including 166 packages per *Caroni*; the strike, however, prevents the goods being accessible.

LEMON-GRASS OIL.—Supplies on the spot are small, the value being 5*d.* per oz.

LEMON OIL.—Owing to the strike there is difficulty in obtaining delivery of spot parcels. Apart from this, however, the spot price has advanced in sympathy with the Sicilian market, and sellers of best brands now ask 6*s.* to 6*s.* 3*d.*; for shipments several agents quote the advanced rate of 6*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f.

A Palermo advice dated June 8 reports that buyers abroad, who had sent in their orders as soon as the market advanced, have now, however, abstained from buying at the prices to which the market had risen in the meantime; and although inquiries came in rather insistently during this week also, the actual amount of business done was very small, and local buyers have also kept back, waiting to see

if the market would settle down after the previous rush. The feeling is consequently easier again, although sellers for the present firmly resist any attempt to make the tendency weaker, hoping that consumers may have to give way in the end. For prompt shipment 6s. 0½d. c.i.f. is quoted.

LINSEED is firm at 68s. to 71s. per quarter for fair to good quality.

MENTHOL is firmer and in more all-round inquiry, but there are few sellers in view of the very limited spot stock, which is estimated at about 25 cases. Business has been done in quite retail lots of Kobayashi-Suzuki at 22s., and at the close 22s. 6d. is reported to have been paid by consumers. Early in the week business was done in Kobayashi crystals for September-October shipment at 17s. 6d. c.i.f., and October-November shipment with equal quantities of oil at 22s. 9d. c.i.f. At the close June is quoted 22s., July-August 21s., and September-October at 20s. c.i.f. for menthol alone; also January-March at 16s. 9d. c.i.f.

MERCURIALS.—Following the reduction in quicksilver to 8l. per bottle, the makers of mercurials have reduced their quotations by 1d. per lb., their list price and for assorted lots under 2 cwt. being as follows: White precipitate 3s. 4d., corrosive sublimate 2s. 8½d., calomel 3s. 0½d., red precipitate 3s. 4d., yellow oxide 3s. 4d., and white sulphate 2s. 8½d. per lb.

MILK-SUGAR is firm, and for small lots for prompt delivery 65s. is wanted on the spot. Delivery in some instances is difficult to effect as a result of the strike.

MORPHINE.—The reduction of 9d. per oz. announced in our last issue has been followed by an advance of 3d. per oz. this week to 11s. 9d. net for hydrochloride powder, at which a good business has been done. In view of the dearer prices for opium, makers now nominally quote 12s. and less chary of selling. Second-hand business has been done at 11s. 6d. to 11s. 7d.

OILS (FIXED).—*Linseed* is cheaper, spot pipes offering at 43s. 6d., barrels at 44s. 3d., and June delivery at 42s. 3d. per cwt. *Hull* is also easier at 41s. 6d. naked. *Cottonseed* is quiet at 27s. 3d. for crude, 27s. 9d. for ordinary pale refined, and 32s. for sweet refined on the spot. *Stettin Colza* oil is firm at 35s. 6d. *Rape* quiet at 32s. 9d. for ordinary brown crude, and 34s. 3d. for refined in casks. *Cocunut* steady. *Ceylon* offering at 41s. and *Cochin* at 44s. 6d. on the spot. *Lagos Palm* oil is 27s. 9d. in Liverpool and 32s. on spot. *Soya* oil is firmer at 30s. in barrels on spot. *Petroleum* is unaltered at 8d. for Russian and 8½d. for American, water-white being 9½d. per gal. *Turpentine* is weak, American having declined 1s. 3d. and closing at 34s. 4½d. spot, and July-December 35s. 4½d. Russian is unchanged at from 27s. to 30s. as to quality. *China wood* oil is quoted 37s. 3d. on spot and 32s. for July-August shipment.

OPIMUM.—The recent news from Smyrna appears to have stiffened the spot market considerably, and for good druggists' quality (11¼ per cent.) 24s. per lb. is asked, with a limited quantity offered. Advices from authentic sources point to the fact that the crop yield from the Karahissar districts will be small, as the result of damage by drought. Holders of Persian on the spot have mostly withdrawn, and the price is nominal at about 22s. to 25s. per lb. An estimate received in London places the forthcoming Turkish crop at about 6,000 cases.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on May 31 that "We have to report an excited week, with sales of new 1912 opium for July, August, and September delivery. These sales amount to only 1,200 tcheques, or about twelve cases of 'extra' selected Karahissar, bought by speculators at 15s., and gradually advancing to 16s. 6d. per lb. As regards business for available old opium, there has been a brisk inquiry by shippers for common goods from 9 per cent. to 11 per cent., but the 13s. to 15s. 6d. bases offered were refused by all holders, who are firmly adhering to fully 2s. per lb. higher. The news all round from growers is unsatisfactory; rain is wanted very much in the upper districts to mature the poppy, and in the low lands the harvesting produces a small yield. From all accounts, therefore, we shall have a small crop of opium this year, in which case extreme high prices will follow. The arrivals in Smyrna amount to 1,180 cases, against 4,562 cases at same date last year."

A Constantinople advice dated June 8 states that no business has been done during the week. At Smyrna the sales include four cases Karahissar at 175 ptrs., fifteen cases at 200 ptrs., and four cases at 216 ptrs. It is difficult to comprehend the reasons for this advance, inasmuch as a crop of about 7,000 cases is practically assured, and the reports as to drought have been exaggerated. The only reason for this advance is the rivalry between the Smyrna and Constantinople markets at this time of the year, when Smyrna wish to show the Interior dealers that that market pays higher prices than Constantinople. The arrivals in Constantinople amount to 1,345 cases (comprising 904 druggists', 379 soft, and 62 Malatia), against 4,228 cases (comprising 2,697 druggists', 1,230 soft, and 301 Malatia) in 1911; the stock is 67 cases, against 299 cases in 1911.

At the opium-auction sale at Bombay on June 12 the export right respecting 1,333 chests yielded an average of Rs. 1,500 (100l.) per chest, which is considerably lower than recent rates. Exporters had made an abortive attempt to boycott the sale and thus force the hands of the Government.

ORANGE OIL.—A Palermo advice of June 8 reports an easier feeling, the market being neglected; for shipment *sweet* is quoted 7s. 11½d., and *bitter* 8s. 4½d. per lb. c.i.f.

OTTO OF ROSE.—Although prices for new are not yet named, 55s. per Turkish oz. is spoken of tentatively in one direction. Another agent has been instructed to advance his price of last season's crop to 56s. per English oz., at which small lots are offered to regular consumers. A private letter from Bulgaria states that the use of adulterants this year is greater than ever, and that it is impossible to obtain otto from the peasants with less than 60 per cent. of adulterants.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—American has a firm undertone at from 11s. 6d. to 12s. per lb., according to brand; rather more business has been done lately. H.G.H. is firm, with business at 15s. 3d. London terms. Japanese oil is quiet at about 5s. 11d. spot, and for September-October shipment 5s. 7½d. c.i.f. has been paid.

QUICKSILVER.—The principal importers reduced their prices by 5s. per bottle on Monday to 8l., and in second-hands 7l. 17s. is quoted at the close. (See also Mercurials.)

RHUBARB is fully 2d. per lb. higher. A fair business has been done in flat High-dried, and 1s. is now asked for good and 10½d. for ordinary, of which there are only a few cases. Medium round Shensi has been sold at 2s. 3d. There is practically no c.i.f. offers from China, and various bids have been refused, no counter-offers being made. Rough round High-dried is unobtainable on the spot.

SANTONIN.—We understand that advices have been received from an authentic quarter in Hamburg stating that there is every prospect of a further advance. Meanwhile the present quotation is from 89s. per lb. net to 97s. 9d. per lb. net, according to quantity. Second-hands quote 92s. 6d.

SENEGAL.—With depleted spot supplies, holders now ask 2s. 10d. net.

SHELLAC is unaltered, with small sales on the basis of 62s. to 63s. for TN; for arrival June-July shipment is quoted 62s. 6d. and AC Garnet at 58s. c.i.f.

SPICES.—Owing to the continuation of the strike the usual weekly auctions were abandoned and private business has been very small. *Cloves* are firmer, the spot price of Zanzibar being 7½d., as against 7d. last week; for arrival October-December shipment has been sold at 7½d. to 7¾d. c.i.f. and buyers; for delivery August-October has been done at 7¾d. *Pepper* showed a steady advance early in the week for shipment, but subsequently the top prices were not maintained. Spot has been slow, Singapore *Black* offering at 5½d. and *White* at 8½d. per lb. The market for Sierra Leone *Ginger* has been quiet, the sales in Liverpool including 50 tons at 26s. to 25s. 6d. ex quay in transit.

SULPHUR is in seasonable demand, but there is difficulty in obtaining delivery from the docks. Several shipments have arrived from Sicily, but cargoes have not been unloaded. Consequently spot stuff occasionally commands a premium, flowers having been sold up to 6l. 11s. 3d. and roll 6l. 7s. 6d. per ton.

WAX (BEES').—The sales in Liverpool include Chilian at from 7l. 17s. 6d. to 8l. per cwt. for pale.

WAX (PARAFFIN).—The Pumpherson Oil Co. has announced an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. to take effect immediately. This follows upon a similar advance a few weeks ago, and has been rendered possible by the decline in the Galician production and the acquiescence of the Standard Oil Co. in a higher level of values.

Java Cinchona.

The report of the Government Cinchona Plantations for the first quarter of 1912 states that the total bark output in 1911 was 1,862,737 half-kilos., of which 331,931 was *Succirubra* bark and the rest *Ledgeriana*. All the *Succirubra* bark and 488,409 half-kilos. of *Ledgeriana* were sent to Europe. The Bandoeng quinine-factory bought the residue of the *Ledgeriana*, amounting to 1,040,866 half-kilos. Owing to the warm, dry weather in 1911, there was an unusually good harvest of seed. In the first quarter of 1912 a great deal of damage was done by high winds, and at Tjinjroewan-Tjibeureum caterpillars did some damage, and their nests are still being collected and destroyed. Planting-out was carried on uninterruptedly during the quarter. Some interesting notes on selection work at Poentjak-Gedeh are given. When this garden was formed in 1904 to 1908 it was planted with fourth-generation seedlings from Mengsel-Rioeng-Goeneng, chosen for (1) high quinine-content, (2) thickness of bark, (3) prolific branching, (4) large leaves, (5) immunity from disease and insect-pest attacks. The young trees appear to have done well for the first four characters, and grafts from the "disease-immune" plants have lately been taken for new plantations, and at the same time plants which have not proved disease- and pest-resistant have been cut out. The importance of this work is apparent from the fact that part of Poentjak-Gedeh was planted up with seedlings bought from a private plantation, and many of these have had to be removed, since they flowered too early and branched poorly, and some of them gave less quinine than the mother-plants from which they were derived.—The report of the Tjimonthe Cinchona Co. for 1910-11 states that in June 1911 412 bouws were under cinchona, 39 under tea, and 91 under albizzia; but adds that it is intended to reduce the area under cinchona gradually to 150 bouws, replacing this crop with tea. The cinchona-bark harvest amounted to 122,456 kilos., of which 92,133.5 kilos. went to Amsterdam, and the rest to the Bandoeng quinine-factory, with the exception of 64.5 kilos. which remained in stock. The trees were badly affected by "canker." The balance-sheet shows a slight deficit, due to expenditure on the cinchona-plantations, which could not be recouped owing to the low prices prevailing for bark. The tea-gardens showed a profit. The Bandoeng correspondent of the "Java Bode" states that the following prices were obtained at the recent seed-auctions held in Java. The seed came from the Government cinchona-plantations: Sixty packets of *Ledgeriana* seed, 15,862fl.; seven packets of hybrid seed, 125fl.; and seventeen packets of *Succirubra* seed, 850fl. Following the failure of negotiations between European quinine-makers and the Java planters, Heer Lovink called a meeting of planters for May 10, and the Association of Cinchona-planters also held a meeting on May 25. At both these meetings the future action to be taken by the planters was down for discussion.

Ceylon Nux Vomica.

The tree producing nux vomica (says the "Society of Arts Journal") grows in abundance in the jungle-districts between Kurunegalla and Jaffna, Northern Ceylon. The tree is not cultivated, and the seed is gathered by natives on their own account, and sold to Moorish traders, who in turn sell to the Colombo exporters. The districts in which nux vomica seed is found are full of malaria, and for this reason the natives refrain from entering the jungle to collect the seed, so that very little comes to the markets. During the nine months ended March 1911 547 cwt. was exported from Ceylon, valued at about 220l.

Cultivation of Drugs.

THE Austrian Government is taking an active interest in the rational cultivation of medicinal plants, as is apparent from the second annual report of the Committee for the State Advancement of the Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in Austria. The experimental plantations, which are situated at Korneuburg, are under the direction of Professor Dr. W. Miltacher, of the Pharmacognostic Institute of the Vienna University. Over seventy different species are at present under cultivation, these being divided into two groups—viz., (1) plants which are likely to yield a good profit when cultivated on a large scale; and (2) plants which are recommended for cultivation as

a side line. Experimental cultivation is carried out on a large scale, so as to reproduce as far as possible actual conditions. Professor Miltacher's object is to establish the best conditions for each plant. The institution is to be considered as the centre for the cultivation of medicinal plants in Austria, and seeds and plant-cuttings will be given to farmers desirous of growing drugs. Courses of instruction are held on growing, harvesting, and drying drugs, attention being drawn to the peculiarities possessed by certain plants. The following general conclusions are drawn from the report, but the analytical data have not yet been fully elaborated. Only toxic drugs are considered:

Aconitum Napellus.—This plant when cultivated in Great Britain shows a decrease in alkaloidal content as compared with that grown wild, but on the Continent this is apparently not the case. However, this result may be due to the altered climatic conditions. In this respect it is interesting to note that whereas in Great Britain the plant flowers towards the end of May, this does not take place in the mountainous parts on the Continent until August or September. It is proposed at a later date to carry out exact investigations to determine the influence of soil on this plant.

Atropa Belladonna.—As the seeds require a considerable time for germination, it is advisable to sow them in autumn. The plant is particularly liable to be attacked by *Epitrix atropæ*, Foudr., and in this case the alkaloidal constituents apparently afford no protection. Of the second year's plants 8 kilos. was harvested on an area of 50 square metres. All the leaves must be dried the same day they are harvested, and not allowed to lie on the ground.

Datura Stramonium.—Experiments in regard to the influence of cultivation on the alkaloidal content were carried out on two plots of equal size sown with 57 grams of seeds. The ground was very chalky (containing 7.9 per cent. CaO). One plot was left untreated, while the other, prior to sowing, had been manured. The leaves were dried at ordinary temperature. The manured plot yielded altogether 45.8 kilos. of leaves (giving, after drying, 6.56 kilos. of drug), in addition to 4.5 kilos. of seeds. The untreated plot of ground yielded 27 kilos. of fresh leaves (equal to 4.6 kilos. of dried leaves) and 3.3 kilos. of seeds. It is interesting to note that the leaves from the manured plot lost 85.6 per cent. of water, against 83 per cent. in the leaves grown on unmanured soil. The alkaloidal content of the leaves (calculated as hyoscyamine and determined by titration) showed that the dried leaves from the manured plot had an average content of 0.342 per cent., compared with 0.325 per cent. in the case of the dried leaves from the untreated plot. Leaves dried in an oven at 30° C. (from the manured plot) showed an alkaloidal content 0.026 per cent. less than that of the air-dried leaves. Thus the enrichment of the soil scarcely influenced the alkaloidal content of the drug, but considerably augmented the harvest. The alkaloidal content of the leaves decreased gradually from the beginning of July until the beginning of September. The leaf-stalks were found to contain a greater percentage of alkaloid than the leaves alone—namely, 0.863 per cent., against 0.302 per cent. Miltacher accordingly considers it irrational to remove the stalks and middle ribs of the leaves. The ash from leaves grown on the manured plot averaged 18.09 per cent., as compared with 15.45 per cent. in the case of leaves from the untreated plot.

Datura Metel.—An experiment was made with the cultivation of this plant as a possible source of scopolamine. The leaves were found to yield 0.55 to 0.78 per cent. of this valuable alkaloid.

Digitalis Purpurea.—No conclusive results have as yet been obtained. It is hoped that some interesting data may be afforded from cultivation of this drug on the chalky soil at Korneuburg, as digitalis does not grow wild on chalk.

Hyoscyamus Niger.—The influence of manure on the yield was evident here also. A manured plot yielded 16 kilos. of fresh leaves (equivalent to 2 kilos. of dried drug); the untreated plot only yielded 5.2 kilos. of leaves (equivalent to 0.8 kilo. of dried leaves). The loss on drying was 87.5 per cent. (manured plot) and 84.7 per cent. (untreated plot) respectively.

Professor Miltacher informs us that the chief constituents of the soil on which *Datura Stramonium* was grown were: N, 0.22 per cent.; P₂O₅, 0.14 per cent.; K₂O, 0.47 per cent.; and CaO, 7.90 per cent. Ordinary stable manure was employed. The plants were grown at a distance of 40 to 50 centimetres from each other, and reached a height of about 60 centimetres; they were in full bloom about two months after planting the seeds. Stable-yard manure was also used in the case of *Hyoscyamus niger*, but more detailed data with regard to the results of cultivation of this plant are not yet available; the marvellous effect of manure on the growth of this plant was, however, conclusively proved.

London Drug Statistics.

The following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses for the month of May, and to the stocks on May 31.

| | May | | Stocks | | 1912 | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Landed | Delivd. | 1912 | 1911 | Imprtd. | Delivd. |
| Aloes.....cs. etc. | 231 | 111 | 1,143 | 1,446 | 609 | 778 |
| ".....gourds | — | — | 800 | 1,092 | — | 292 |
| Anise, star.....cs. | — | — | 63 | 1 | — | 12 |
| Arrowroot.....pkgs. | 1,463 | 600 | 4,425 | 3,835 | 6,363 | 4,514 |
| Balsams.....cs. | — | 75 | 104 | 291 | 30 | 175 |
| Calamba.....pkgs. | 784 | 3 | 2,281 | 547 | 1,528 | 567 |
| Camphor....." | 765 | 683 | 1,713 | 1,493 | 3,741 | 4,007 |
| Cardamoms....." | 257 | 231 | 556 | 1,443 | 1,104 | 1,312 |
| Cascara sagrada tons | — | 11 | 237 | 366 | 32 | 67 |
| Cinchona.....pkgs. | 789 | 613 | 3,532 | 4,315 | 2,362 | 2,866 |
| Cochineal.....bgs. | 26 | 58 | 291 | 161 | 161 | 214 |
| Cubeb....." | — | 3 | 82 | 41 | 1 | 87 |
| Dragon's-blood pkgs. | 16 | 5 | 148 | 182 | 102 | 182 |
| Galls....." | 674 | 191 | 3,100 | 2,298 | 2,842 | 1,670 |
| Gums— | | | | | | |
| Ammoniacum .. | — | — | 71 | 19 | 84 | 17 |
| Animi....." | 28 | 45 | 366 | 435 | 471 | 546 |
| Arabic....." | 314 | 1,177 | 4,710 | 4,473 | 4,408 | 4,744 |
| Asaetida....." | 283 | 89 | 1,077 | 1,209 | 1,347 | 939 |
| Benzoin....." | 187 | 172 | 520 | 481 | 887 | 663 |
| Copal....." | 2,551 | 5,263 | 17,945 | 27,078 | 13,903 | 19,803 |
| Damar....." | 357 | 720 | 6,042 | 5,032 | 5,116 | 3,912 |
| Gamboge....." | 6 | 6 | 88 | 184 | 29 | 78 |
| Guaiaicum....." | — | 3 | 41 | 23 | 27 | 24 |
| Kauri.....tons net | 8 | 116 | 413 | 289 | 509 | 470 |
| Kino.....pkgs. | 23 | 7 | 30 | 38 | 26 | 16 |
| Mastic....." | — | 1 | 17 | 18 | 6 | 8 |
| Myrrh, E.I. | — | 22 | 540 | 359 | 342 | 220 |
| Olibanum....." | 120 | 34 | 518 | 584 | 150 | 270 |
| Sandarac....." | 188 | 126 | 607 | 1,131 | 611 | 550 |
| Tragacanth....." | 4,836 | 1,084 | 10,272 | 4,508 | 12,489 | 5,535 |
| Ipecacuanha— | | | | | | |
| Cartagena ... | 11 | 3 | 34 | 41 | 39 | 28 |
| E.I. (Johore) .. | — | 2 | 18 | 76 | 39 | 55 |
| Matto Grosso .. | 24 | 10 | 44 | 36 | 45 | 50 |
| Minas....." | 3 | 2 | 22 | 6 | 20 | 37 |
| Jalap.....bls. | 34 | 31 | 210 | 170 | 264 | 129 |
| Nux vomica.....pkgs. | 174 | 175 | 216 | 594 | 424 | 288 |
| Oils— | | | | | | |
| *Anise, star.....cs. | — | 10 | 20 | 10 | 41 | 38 |
| *Castor....." | — | 1 | 31 | 34 | — | 6 |
| Castor.....pkgs. | 56 | 154 | 267 | 181 | 611 | 556 |
| Coconut.....tons | 339 | 35 | 1,155 | 370 | 1,282 | 411 |
| Olive.....pkgs. | 690 | 482 | 2,135 | 1,824 | 2,596 | 2,037 |
| Palm.....tons | 10 | 21 | 131 | 16 | 125 | 27 |
| Quinine.....lb. | 5,237 | 5,236 | 237,300 | 228,968 | 55,341 | 20,466 |
| Rhubarb.....cs. | 38 | 26 | 329 | 438 | 219 | 186 |
| Sarsaparilla.....bls. | 99 | 76 | 234 | 379 | 352 | 342 |
| Senna.....pkgs. | — | 255 | 1,305 | 2,107 | 779 | 1,797 |
| Shellac.....cs. | 1,675 | 2,723 | 99,791 | 98,065 | 17,725 | 18,422 |
| Turmeric.....tons | 22 | 21 | 297 | 163 | 92 | 128 |
| Wax— | | | | | | |
| Bees'.....pkgs. | 299 | 514 | 1,458 | 1,544 | 2,412 | 2,884 |
| Vegetable ... | 25 | 84 | 482 | 672 | 279 | 344 |

* Stocks of essential oils at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included.

Manchester Chemical-market.

June 11.

The market is in a position of uncertainty. Inquiry on export account is good, and on home account there is also a fair inquiry, but the position is again complicated by the strike of transport workers in this centre, and it is just possible we may have a similar condition of things to that which eventuated among railway and other workers last year. In heavy chemicals, caustic soda maintains full rates. Bleaching-powder for prompt delivery is quoted 4*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.* per ton in 6 to 8 cwt. casks on rails, while on contract account the figures are 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton, also on rails. Crystal carbonate is steady at 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton in 2-cwt. bags at works. Carbonate of soda in fair inquiry. Soda crystals, 40*s.* to 45*s.* per ton in 2-cwt. bags on rails. Ammonia alkali after July 1 will be registered at 2*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 3*l.* per ton, and for export 3*l.* 16*s.* per ton; for agreed market current rates are 4*l.* to 4*l.* 5*s.* per ton f.o.r. Salt-cake is steady at 42*s.* 6*d.* per ton, delivered into trucks. Sulphate of copper rules firm, and high prices are asked for both prompt and forward, best brands being quoted

25*l.* to 25*l.* 5*s.* per ton, delivered Manchester. The continued appreciation of raw copper is answerable for the present increase. Brown and grey acetate of lime are scarce at 7*l.* 10*s.* and 12*l.* 10*s.* per ton respectively. Acetic acids sell freely. White sugar of lead is firm at 23*l.* 10*s.* and brown at 22*l.* 10*s.* per ton. Nitrate of lead 26*l.* per ton. Sulphate of potash is in limited demand. Permanganate shows no change. Yellow prussiate of potash appears to maintain late rates. Coal-tar products are generally steady. Sulphate of ammonia is 14*l.* 15*s.* per ton, free on rails Manchester.

Continental Drug and Chemical Markets.

ARSENIC.—Prices have risen sharply according to Berlin reports, as they were unremunerative to producers. The advance already amounts to several marks per 100 kilos., especially for the foreign product. For the moment the market is still dominated by the cheap second-hand offers, but these should soon be modified, in accordance with the terms asked by producers, and it looks as if the rise would go further.

GLYCERIN.—Advices from Marseilles dated June 3 state that the market has remained lifeless, and quotations are rather nominal as follows: Saponification-glycerin, on the spot and for delivery over 1912, fr.140; delivery over 1913, fr.137.50 to fr.150. Crude glycerin (80-per-cent.), spot and delivery over 1912, fr.120; delivery over 1913, fr.117.50 to fr.115. These quotations are understood per 100 kilos. unpacked in buyers' casks, f.o.b., for quantities not less than 10,000 kilos., to be shipped in one bottom to the usual European ports, with $\frac{3}{2}$ per cent. discount for saponification qualities and net or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount for crude glycerin.

Marseilles Olive-oil Market.

Marseilles, June 10.

The actual market situation at the moment is somewhat difficult to define. The sale of olive oil in the interior is very poor, and consequently purchases by Marseilles firms have slackened off. On the other hand, the markets of the principal producing countries are very firm, and show a sensible advance, this applying to Spain, Algeria, and Tunis. The export demand from Marseilles to the United States is good, but this is about the only active market. At first sight this lack of stability in the conditions between offers and demand is difficult to explain, but a reason may be found in the fact that considerable *direct* orders from Sweden and Norway have been placed in the countries of production, especially in Spain. It is difficult to prophesy as to the near future of the market conditions. The new crop will probably be highly satisfactory in Provence and the Alpes-Maritimes, where the olive-blossom is magnificent. Very good reports come from Italy, Algeria, and Tunis, and good from Spain. Therefore, if prices remain high for some time longer, they will probably decline before the crop in August and September. The more so, as there are large stocks unsold in Andalusia, etc., not to speak of the Levant, where the actual political situation makes business very difficult for the present and some time to come. Compare the following new quotations with those given in our issue of May 25 (index folio 789), and it will be seen that it was correct to say that the general tendency of the producing markets was then upwards. To-day's quotations in francs, ex warehouse, are as follows:

| | Fr. | | Fr. |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|
| Aragon extra .. | 165 to 175 | Bari | 180 to 190 |
| Borjas | 138 „ 148 | Sfax extra (in bulk) | 138 „ 148 |
| „ surfine .. | 128 „ 135 | Sousse „ .. | 138 „ 150 |
| Andalusia extra .. | 135 „ 145 | Algeria extra .. | 135 „ 142 |
| „ surfine .. | 128 „ 135 | „ surfine .. | 125 „ 132 |
| „ fine | 110 „ 120 | „ fine | 118 „ 122 |
| Levant extra .. | 130 „ 135 | Corsica extra .. | 145 „ 150 |
| „ surfine .. | 120 „ 128 | „ surfine .. | 128 „ 135 |
| „ fine | 115 „ 120 | „ fine | 120 „ 125 |

An Opium Diagram.

Messrs. Barker Bros., of Smyrna, have issued an interesting and useful diagram from statistics compiled by Mr. V. P. Prossen, showing at a glance the price of opium in Smyrna, the arrivals, sales, stock, and crops during the past decade (1902 to 1911). The diagram is printed on cartridge paper, is suitable for hanging, and measures 27 in. by 39 in., which precludes its suitable reproduction in our pages. It is interesting to note that during the decade the highest price in Smyrna was in the week ending December 21, 1911, when "extra" druggists' quality opium touched 30*s.* 1*d.*, and the lowest was at the end of June and beginning of July 1904, when the drug touched 6*s.* 4*d.* per lb. f.o.b. Smyrna. The most violent fluctuations have occurred during

D

the past four years. The following figures show the yearly crops of Smyrna, Constantinople, and Salonica:

| | Cases | | Cases |
|---------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| 1902-3 | 11,000 | 1907-8 | 2,160 |
| 1903-4 | 4,000 | 1908-9 | 4,920 |
| 1904-5 | 9,800 | 1909-10 | 5,035 |
| 1905-6 | 4,200 | 1910-11 | 10,350 |
| 1906-7 | 7,600 | 1911-12 | 2,900 |

Spanish Ergot.

The following official figures relate to the exports of ergot from Vigo (the principal port of shipment) during the past three years:

| To | 1909 | 1910 | 1911 |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Kil s. | Kilos. | Kilos. |
| England | — | 6,276 | 17,574 |
| Germany | 24,410 | 23,623 | 5,579 |
| France | 9,572 | 7,437 | 2,867 |
| Belgium | — | 7,100 | — |
| Argentina | — | 761 | 475 |
| Cuba | — | 408 | — |
| Kilos. | 33,982 | 45,605 | 26,595 |
| Value | £1,348 | £1,856 | £1,669 |

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Council-meeting.

THE Council met at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, June 5, Sir Wm. J. Baxter, D.L., J.P. (President), in the chair. Dr. J. Walsh, Messrs. D. M. Watson (Vice-President), George D. Beggs (Hon. Treasurer), Thomas Batt, J. H. Bowden, and W. F. Wells were also present.

SHOPS ACT AND COUNCIL-MEETINGS.

Mr. Ferrall (Registrar) stated that Mr. John Smith had asked him to express his regret that he was unable to attend the meeting owing to the new closing arrangements. Mr. John Burnett and Mr. James Michie also were unable to attend. Mr. Ferrall added that Wednesday is now an awkward day for the Council-meetings. Tuesday would be a better day.

Dr. Walsh said it would be better not to do anything until the holiday is definitely settled.

Mr. Watson said a notice of motion would be required to alter the day of meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. J. J. O'Driscoll, Ph.C., the Medical Hall, Bride Street, Kildare, and Mr. J. Copithorne, Ph.C., Hadden's Medical Hall, Skibbereen, were nominated for membership.

The Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden was thanked for a copy of the twenty-second annual report, and THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for a copy of the ninth edition of "The Art of Dispensing."

Miss Susanna C. Loane, Messrs. M. J. Donovan, John Macauley, and Thomas Mackessy, who sent communications submitting certificates from other bodies, were admitted to Preliminary registration.

Mr. D. McCarthy, Ph.C., notified that he had changed his address from 1 Catherine Street, Youghal, to 5 Gibraltar Terrace, Strand, Youghal.

A report from the Law Committee was received and adopted. This was all the business.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.—"The Observer" of June 7, 1812, contained the following paragraph:

"The Apothecaries in the metropolis have, in consequence of a late order from the Company, declined selling the medicine, called 'child's cordial.' It is made by steeping poppy-seeds in water, and sweetening it—is a strong narcotic, and has, in several instances, when taken in large doses, consigned the infant to eternal rest."

We thank several subscribers for sending us the cutting.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

Cape Province.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Vivian H. Smith, formerly of the Australasian staff of Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., and more recently one of their South African representatives, was found dead in bed at Carnarvon, Cape, on the morning of May 20. Death, it is stated, was due to an overdose of morphine.

AMALGAMATED CHEMISTS' CRICKET CLUB.—On the occasion of the Pharmaceutical Society's dinner on May 16 the Chairman (Mr. J. A. Thomas) presented, on behalf of Mr. H. J. Kinlay, Mr. R. S. Cheetham with a medal for the highest batting average of the season. Mr. W. H. Froembling is the President of the Club.

Orange Free State.

PERSONAL.—A Bowling Club has recently been established at Bloemfontein, and Mr. A. McMurray, local manager for Petersen, Ltd., was successful in winning both the handicap competition and the club championship in May at the close of the season.

DAGGA.—At a recent meeting of the O.F.S. Medical and Pharmacy Council Dr. Johnson raised the question of dagga-smoking by natives. He considered the evil only second to drinking bad liquors, and advocated that it should be a punishable offence to be in possession of dagga, except for medicinal purposes. As dagga (South African Indian hemp) can be plucked on the veld in almost any part of the country, it would be difficult to control its use or misuse.

TEMPERATURE.—A return of the mean monthly temperatures for 1911, observed by Dr. P. Targett Adams, deputy medical officer for the Bloemfontein Union, shows a minimum of 32.5° in July and a maximum of 92.6° in December. The mean maxima and minima for the whole year were 73.4° and 46.6° respectively. This record has been obtained principally for the information of the Pharmacopœia Revision Committee. The readings were, however, taken in a somewhat sheltered place in the courtyard of the Public Health Department, and while official they are scarcely as extreme as the average temperatures. For instance, it is usual to record from six to sixteen degrees of frost in exposed gardens during the cold season.

O.F.S. PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.—The usual monthly meeting was held on May 14, when Mr. Rawling presided over a small attendance. After routine business had been disposed of, Mr. E. Whiteside, L.D.S., read an interesting paper on "The Etiology of Dental Caries." The contribution was well received, and led to considerable discussion. Hearty thanks were tendered to the lecturer, who agreed to read a further paper on dental matters at some future date. The President welcomed two new members of the Society—viz., Messrs. Westlake and Mure. The *verbatim* reports of the interviews which the President and Secretary had with the Sunday Observance Commission were laid on the table for the information of the members. An invitation to the Society to send a representative to the Cape Society's annual dinner on May 16 was read, and the Secretary stated that Mr. C. L. Botha, the Parliamentary representative for Bloemfontein, had agreed to represent the Society.

Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Province.

The second annual dinner of this Society was held at the Royal Hotel, Cape Town, on May 16. The chair was taken by the President (Mr. J. Austin Thomas, J.P.), who was supported by the Hon. F. S. Malan, M.L.A. (Union Minister of Education), Mr. H. R. Peck (Vice-President), and Major Silburn, M.L.A., D.S.O., member for Durban (Pharmaceutical Society of Natal), on his right; and Mr. Chris. L. Botha, M.L.A. (O.F.S. Pharmaceutical Society), Mr. G. R. Cleghorn (Colonial Pharmacy Board), and Mr. W. H. Froembling, Ph.D. (Vice-President). A company of over

sixty sat down to an excellent repast. Among them were Mr. F. C. Mathew and Mr. H. J. Kinlay (Heynes, Mathew, Ltd.), Mr. J. Patterson (B. W. & Co.), Drs. A. L. Gurney (Bellville), R. Morrow (Parow), and J. C. Palmer (Maitland), Messrs. W. A. Sleggs (Hazell & Son), J. R. Corrigan, J. H. Cooper, W. Aitken, C. Merry, D. Craig, H. Magness Elgar, H. S. C. Marcus, W. Fick (Hon. Treasurer), and J. Sloan (Hon. Secretary). After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the Hon. F. S. Malan proposed that of "The Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Province." He said the Chairman was a good constituent of his, and the Society had made a wise selection in making him President. On more than one occasion the Chairman had brought to his notice various matters of importance to their craft, and he had had an opportunity of looking into the work which the Society was doing. The school of pharmacy in connection with the Society should do much to advance the interests of pharmacy. He happened to have been a Minister when the stamp-tax was imposed, and he was also a Minister who assisted in giving it an honourable burial. With them he trusted the stamp-tax would never be revived. At the same time, he had reason to believe that the tax was responsible for the more than ordinary interest that chemists took in the affairs of the Society at the time. The "nightmare" had now disappeared, and, he for one trusted, for ever. The metric system, which was supposed to be slumbering in an embryonic stage in the Government archives, had somehow been introduced into Parliament. A deputation of the Society had waited on him and represented to him that if the metric system was rendered compulsory it should be enforced generally. As a result of what was then said, he talked the matter over with the Minister of Commerce, and he could tell them that the measure would not be introduced into Parliament during the present Session. (Cheers.) The Society was doing a great service, and the members could depend on it receiving the support of the Government.

The President, in replying, thanked Mr. Malan for his kind remarks. The Society was stronger to-day, financially and numerically, than it had ever been. There was no doubt that the patent-medicine stamp-tax consolidated them, and thus enabled the Society to make its presence felt. He trusted that members of Parliament present would go away with a better opinion of chemists. Mr. Malan had certainly been responsible for assistance in burying the stamp-tax, and he had also been instrumental in deleting the clause in the Weights and Measures Bill which compelled chemists to use the metric system. The President also referred to the Chemists' Defence Fund, and the necessity for forming a Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

Mr. W. H. Froembling proposed the toast of "Kindred Societies." Mr. Chris. L. Botha, in responding on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Orange Free State, said Mr. Froembling had expressed the wish that at all future gatherings there would be no need for the toast, as the intention is to unify. He hoped that such might be the case. Major Silburn, in replying on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Society of Natal, also referred to unification. Next year he hoped to see a Bill before Parliament for unifying the Pharmacy Boards, and he also hoped to see that the various societies and organisations had adopted unification. (Cheers.)

"Wireless" messages wishing the function success were read by the Chairman from Mr. Joseph Sowden, member of Council, who was a passenger on the R.M.S.S. *Edinburgh Castle*, bound for England, and Mr. E. Scarfe, who was homeward bound in the same ship.

The function was interspersed with an interesting and most enjoyable programme of music, Mr. Frank C. Mathew presiding at the piano.

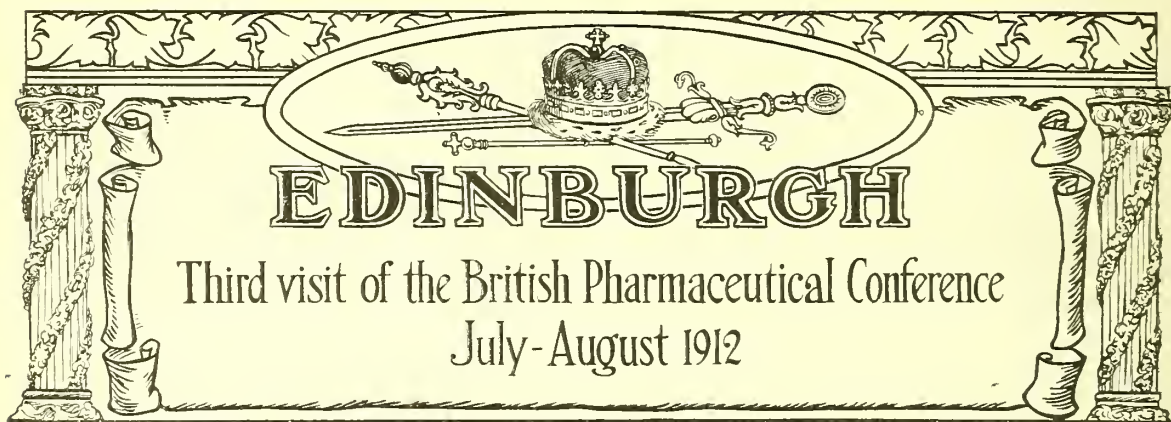
Pharmaceutical Society of the Transvaal.

THE annual dinner of the above Society was held at the Langham Hotel, Johannesburg, on May 14. Mr. W. Easterbrook (President) presided. Among those present were Sir Kendal Franks, C.B. (President S.A. Committee, British Medical Association), Dr. H. B. Currie (Vice-President, Medical Society), Dr. Archer Brown, Dr. J. Van Niekerk, Dr. Smith, Dr. Kerr, Dr. Kannin, Messrs. B. Owen Jones, M.P.C. (President, Pharmacy Board), Chas. Keir, E. L. Ralling (Vice-President), Jas. Johnston, and Ed. Galpin (Vice-President and Chairman, Pretoria Branch), Professors Thomson and James (Transvaal University College), Messrs. W. Dowling (Vice-President, Chemical and Metallurgical Society), A. Purnell, R. G. Leeds, Rennie, Christie, J. Main, A. Macdonald, Cameron, Dinwoodie, Tibbitt, Marshall, I. P. Jones, Gerrish (Southall Bros. & Barclay), Wheldon, Rogers (Bidwell & Ingrams), Friedman, Colebank, F. Lewis (Maw, Son & Sons), Brown, Woods, Taylor, West (Allen & Hanburys), Sive, Karnovsky, King, Ingram, Whyte, W. H. Cross (Hon. Secretary), and others.

There was a long toast-list, the principal one of the evening being that of "The Pharmaceutical Society of the Transvaal," proposed by Sir Kendal Franks, who said it was only appropriate that a member of his profession should propose such a toast, because the line of demarcation was at times difficult to find. They had heard that in the country districts physicians dispense their own prescriptions, while chemists were prescribing. Those present knew what strides surgery had made. Surgery had taken the lead, but medicine had awakened and was progressing. He thought medicine would create such a revolution that there would be no prescriptions going down to the chemists. The medical profession bragged of the strides that those two branches had made, but the profession had to thank a chemist—Louis Pasteur—for much. In replying, the Chairman referred to the pharmaceutical classes which had been started at the Technical College, and said thanks were due to Professor Thomson for his assistance in that direction. "Our Country" was given by Mr. J. Johnston, to which Dr. J. Van Niekerk replied; while Mr. E. Galpin gave the toast of "The Medical Profession," to which Dr. Currie responded. Other toasts were "The Pharmacy Board," proposed by Mr. E. Ralling and replied to by Mr. B. Owen Jones, and "Our Guests," given by Mr. Charles Keir, Professor Thomson and Mr. W. Dowling replying.

Royal Institution.

THE Friday evening discourse on June 7 was by Sir William Macewan, M.D., the subject chosen being "Lord Lister." The Duke of Northumberland was in the chair. The lecture was an appreciation of the work of the late Lord Lister, and traced the steps which led up to the discovery of the antiseptic treatment of wounds. Before the knowledge was obtained of bacteria it was thought that inflammation was necessary to wound-healing, and thus study of the cause and prevention of inflammation was neglected. Chemical substances were tried in an empirical way as a means of arresting excessive inflammation, and some of these were attended by an amount of success. Cagniard-Latour in 1835 discovered microbes to be the cause of putrefaction and fermentation, recognising that alcoholic fermentation was due to the presence of a living organism. In the following year Schwann, of Berlin, demonstrated that putrefaction is due to living organisms, and could be prevented as long as the putrescible body was exposed to pure air only. Pasteur confirmed these observations in 1858, and in the meantime Davaine had found that anthrax is due to an organism, this being the first pathogenic bacillus discovered. Lister, while Professor of Surgery in Glasgow, was constantly speculating on the cause of inflammation and the cause of putrefaction in wounds, and during a discussion with friends it was suggested to him that Pasteur's papers on fermentation might be of use in elucidating what seemed to be somewhat kindred processes. These papers of Pasteur came as a revelation to Lister, who at once accepted the theory and began a search for something which would prevent the entrance of living organisms into wounds, believing that if such were found the healing of a wound would proceed just as if it were subcutaneous. About this time creosote—the active agent of which was carbolic acid—was used for disinfecting sewage, and Lister secured a sample of carbolic acid from Dr. Anderson, Professor of Chemistry in Glasgow University. He tried it in August 1865, with results which justified his hypothesis. Independently Jules Lemaire had been similarly impressed with Pasteur's observations, and had tried to eradicate the germs from wounds by means of chemical antiseptics, and especially by carbolic acid. He seems to have recognised the true basis of antiseptic surgery, the germ-theory of fermentation. He published his researches in 1863. In the wards of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, which previously, in common with other hospitals, had been the home of septic diseases, the introduction of the antiseptic treatment by Lister dispelled the horrors which previously accompanied wound-healing, and created an atmosphere of sweetness and health. Sir William then dealt with the difficulties which were met with in making known the antiseptic treatment and the modifications which it subsequently underwent. The advances of modern surgery are all dependent on Lister's discoveries.



WHEN first men settled in Edinburgh is a matter of mere conjecture, as most of the ancient chroniclers unwittingly prove by the fragments of their writings which survive. But whether the city's origin be a thousand years before the Christian era, or whether it be contemporaneous with the northern advance of the Romans, there is possibly not another spot on earth which has witnessed, and emerged successfully from, so many memorable happenings in war and domestic broil. The most likely accounts are those that place its inception somewhere between the first and fifth centuries, suggesting that on and afterwards around the huge Castle Rock aborigines built their rude huts in order to co-operate against mutual enemies. From this nucleus the town has grown.

Edinburgh sounds a world-wide appeal, and receives homage from individuals of every nation and of every temperament. Historians, scientists, educationists, hard-headed business people alike feel drawn to her, forgiving the often chilly weather-welcome which she bestows sometimes upon her visitors, while, for the dreamer, she holds wide the doorway of an earthly paradise. Viewed from one of the several heights, Edinburgh almost invariably presents a greyish appearance, and "Auld Reekie" is an apt synonym; "the old grey city," in brief, is the impressionist's classic phrase. Henley crystallised one's ideas of the evening aspect of the town when he wrote:

"The smoke ascends

In a rosy-and-golden haze.

The spires

Shine, and are changed. In the valley

Shadows rise. The lark sings on. The sun,

Closing his benediction,

Sinks, and the darkening air

Thrills with a sense of the triumphing night—

Night, with her train of stars,

And her great gift of sleep."

The attitude of natives of Edinburgh towards their birthplace frequently puzzles the stranger. They assume a quizzical manner in referring to the town and its "East-windy, West-endy" characteristics. This is mere dissimulation. "R. L. S.," than whom no man has loved

Edinburgh more, has blackballed his natal town with an elf-like pen time and again; but far in the Southern Seas his frank longing for the Auld Toon and the New finds expression in these beautiful lines:

"I saw rain falling and the rainbow drawn
On Lammermuir. Harkening, I heard again
In my precipitous city beaten bells
Wiinow the keen sea wind."

The Royal Mile, the really historical portion of Edinburgh, extending from the Castle down to Holyrood Palace, is "the Mile of Memories," and chiefest among these are the recollections associated with the ill-fated Stuart dynasty. Up and down this narrow thoroughfare have passed kings and queens, lords and ladies, knaves and saints—all who helped to make Scotland's history. At the foot of the Canongate, once a burgh, debtors and malefactors were free from pursuit when they reached the Sanctuary, and this convenient arrangement was often employed by those in trouble. The Watergate, one of the principal city barriers, was situated in the vicinity, near where the works of Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan & Co. now are; and strenuous fights were often waged for its possession and capture.

Many ancient landmarks have disappeared from the long narrow roadway which links St. Giles' Cathedral, Holyrood Palace, and the Castle; but the old-world aspect yet remains,* rendering unnecessary the possession of more

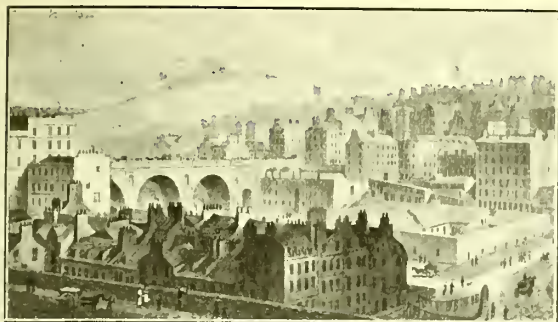
* We have ventured to introduce into this article illustrations of prominent parts of Edinburgh as they were at the beginning of last century, about a hundred years ago. They are from a collection of steel engravings in a copy of "Modern Athens" which is in our possession. The writer of the article took photographs of the same places and in approximately the same aspects during the past fortnight. The contrast is in some instances startling, but one sees here and there an unaltered feature, even in the case of a close in Canongate.—EDITOR, *C. & D.*



EDINBURGH FROM CALTON HILL.



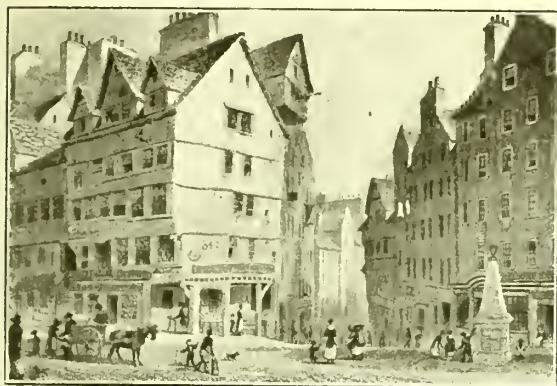
A SIMILAR VIEW TO-DAY.



THE OLD TOWN LOOKING WEST



THE SAME TO-DAY



THE WEST BOW.



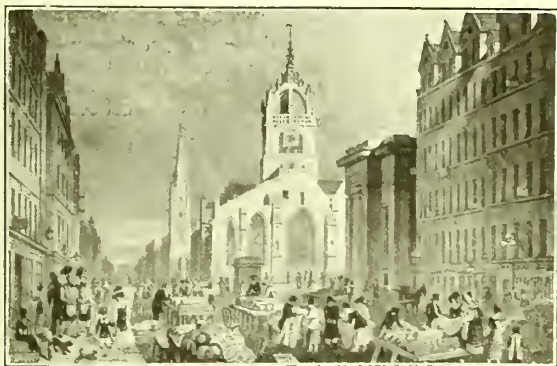
THE SAME TO-DAY.



ST. MARY'S WYND.



NOW ST. MARY'S STREET.



LAWNMARKET AND ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL.



AS THEY ARE TO-DAY.

than a mediocre imagination, and peopling for itself, when the spell is on one, the high lands (many-storied buildings) and closes (entries) with shades of their quondam inhabitants. From this balcony in Canongate the Marquis of Argyle (1598-1661) and his friends gaze again upon their hereditary foe, the Great Marquis of Montrose, bound and helpless in the executioner's cart, his diamond orders glittering in the mocking sun. Along St. Mary's Wynd Bothwell and his accomplices hasten after participating in the tragedy at Kirk-o'-field which sent the handsome Darnley to his long home; rousing cheers greet Queen Mary the while she smiles sadly on her poverty-stricken subjects; the roll of drums, drowning the last testimony of some gallant Covenanter, is faintly borne upward from the Grassmarket, and justified murmurs of wrath issue from the houses on the "sanctified bends of the Bow." On the northern side of the valley a little group of Life Guards, headed by a man of noble bearing, trot leisurely westward, the tiny city in an uproar over his escape. The leader dismounts, climbs up to the postern gate of the Castle, and bids his friend hold the fortress till aid arrives. He is John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, riding to his greatest victory and to his death. And here is stern old John Knox, walking from St. Giles, elaborating the caustic rebuke he is going to cast upon the "ongoings of the Palace inmates."

So the shades come and go, living once more for a moment in the mind's eye of the sympathetic dreamer. Usually, like their descendants, they did their self-imposed tasks joyfully; occasionally they exhibited meet repentance. The biography of one gentleman at least shows the latter trait. He saluted, to phrase it gently, one of his personal enemies with a naked sword, a favourite pastime then, inflicting a severe wound; but it is on record that the encounter "was much regrated eftirwards by himself," though the reason why is not stated.

Edinburgh is a city of churches, schools, hospitals, and dispensaries. From the spot where Marmion stood and viewed the city o'er, the sightseer may now pick out spires and turrets and steeples by the dozen, the principal of which is the beautiful crown of St. Giles, which some antiquaries believe to have been built from the stones of a former Holyrood Palace. The church itself is named after Edinburgh's patron saint.

The Old University, erected on Kirk-o'-field in what is now the South Bridge, was first planned during Queen Mary's reign; but it was not until her imprisonment in England that the idea was properly carried out. The extensive buildings which house the medical school of the University, the Students' Union (which is the Conference headquarters), and the McEwan Hall, have all been completed during the last generation, and the city to-day can boast that the opportunities and advantages offered to students of every nationality are second to none.

Edinburgh is also magnificently equipped with schools, one of the most notable being George Heriot's School in Lauriston, which was begun in the reign of Charles I. with funds bequeathed by the famous jeweller Jingling Geordie, who for long conducted his business beside St. Giles' Cathedral. For many years the hospital (as it was known until quite recently) was greatly in request by Cromwell and others as a base from which to make war upon the loyal Scots; and the best preserved portion of the Flodden Wall still forms the western boundary of the school grounds. To enumerate a few other schools and colleges, there are Fettes, Daniel Stewart's, Watson's, Gillespie's, and the Royal High School, where King Edward VII. received part of his education before he went to the Old University.

The Lauriston district might fittingly be termed the Mecca of the Sick. Around, and in the neighbourhood of, the Royal Infirmary, greatly enlarged since the last visit of the Conference, are clustered dispensaries by the score. Not far away, in the Cowgate, once an aristocratic street, is the Magdalene Chapel, which is used sometimes now in connection with the Cowgate Dispensary, and is a fine example of a pre-Reformation church. In this district survives the ancient habit of street-trading, and on a Saturday afternoon it is a novelty to watch the bargain-hunters arguing with the brokers, whose stock occupies in many instances most of the pavement.

The City Hospital has now been removed to the suburbs, and is a splendid and useful institution. The Sick Children's Hospital and the Victoria Hospital have both been enlarged since 1892; and many another useful institution, including the School Board's several successful efforts on behalf of necessitous pupils, has been inaugurated throughout the past two decades. While on this subject it is interesting to note that the first public dispensary in Edinburgh was opened in 1776 at West Richmond Street, chiefly by the aid of Dr. Andrew Duncan, and to-day the name of William Duncan, Ph.C., F.C.S., in association with the Royal Dispensary, is known wherever Scottish pharmacists are—which is the wide world o'er. Apothecaries are frequently mentioned in old books dealing with the city's vicissitudes. We read of "ane ypothecar" embalming the body of Queen Mary's second husband; and the Post Office, which in the early years of last century stood farther along Waterloo Place than the present G.P.O. (which was erected upon the site of the old Theatre Royal), was sold by auction in 1689 to John Blair, apothecary, he undertaking to pay the Government 5,100 merks (255*l.* sterling) per annum in return for the evident privilege.

Trade in Edinburgh was formerly conducted in large open spaces—the Lawnmarket, the Grassmarket, the Fishmarket—and the old custom died hard, the lieges refusing to comply with the requests of the authorities that their callings should be carried on under better and more civilised conditions. The latter half of last century saw the establishment of the small business, and many a fortune was made in this as in former periods; indeed, many a noble family is able to trace its ancestry back to some tradesman who plied his vocation in a street booth, or in a tiny shop in the Old or New Town.

During the last twenty years there have been obvious signs of a return to previous centralised methods, but a very different style of trading has resulted. A great proportion of the city has been rebuilt; old closes and wynds were swept away, new streets came into being. To-day the newspaper offices are palatial blocks, huge departmental stores rear their lofty heads in the places of historical import, colossal hotels have dispossessed the homelier variety; and the co-operative movement is undoubtedly increasingly popular with all classes of the citizens. Old hotels have vanished even from Princes Street, and a certain percentage of smaller shopkeepers have closed their premises. The drug-trade feels the pinch of strenuous competition, too, as will be duly noted in a later article. But, taking it all in all, the majority of traders admit that things might be very much worse.

A few words as to how best to see the city. The car-service, in spite of all humorous allusions to the contrary, is excellent; and one may now drive on the same car from Murrayfield to Nether Liberton, a journey occupying about forty minutes and costing 2*½d.* Another long-distance trip is that from Pilrig (whither David Balfour hied) to the Braid Hills. The Royal Mile ought to be done on foot; it seems a desecration to scan its wonders from a taxicab or a char-à-banc. The shopkeepers in this playground of the fates are obliging in the extreme, and are seldom actuated by that baneful modern maxim, "It's your money we want." You see an old date above a doorway, and entering the shop, purchasing a bottle of lemonade, perhaps, you have thrust into your hands the keys of an empty adjoining house. Wandering in and out of the empty rooms you can well believe that the building is five hundred years old.

That is the best way to explore the unknown; to encounter it accidentally is the happiest mode of sight-seeing, for guide-books delight in pointing out the obvious.

But—this is the wisest advice of all—never speak to one of the keen-eyed youngsters who infest this neighbourhood. If you listen only a second to a grimy gamin as he hurtles forth "Prince Charles an' his men marched doon here wi' the Duke o' Wellington an' Prince Rupert," you are lost. The Scottish cry for largesse, "Poor oot," will arise in its strident intensity; and a horde of children will strive for priority as guides. Rather endeavour to prove to all and sundry by your bearing that you are a native of mine own romantic town.



THE CANONGATE.



AS IT IS TO-DAY.



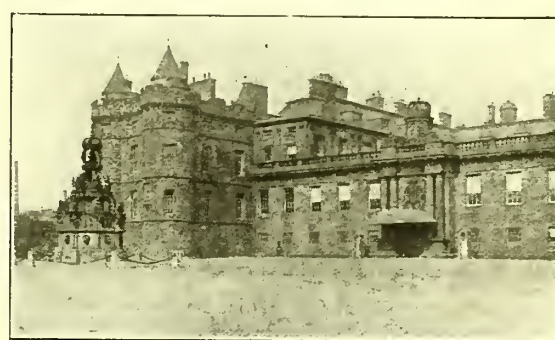
THE CALTON HILL (showing the old North Bridge).



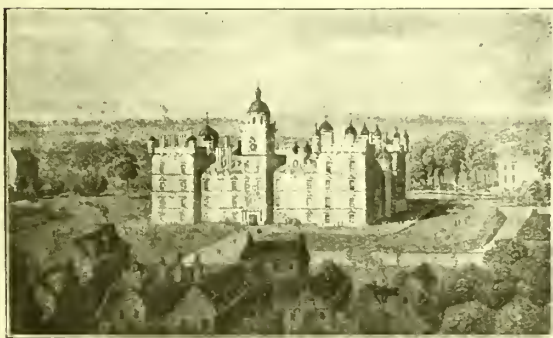
CALTON HILL (FROM MARKET STREET).



HOLYROOD PALACE.



PRESENT-DAY VIEW, WITH FOUNTAIN.



HERIOT'S HOSPITAL.



SAME AND DISTRICT NOW.

Private Meeting.

A MEETING of the creditors of Frederick Guy, chemist and druggist (trading as Glaisyer & Kemp), 11 and 12 North Street, Brighton, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Friday, June 7, Mr. G. Montague White, C.A. (representing Messrs. William Edwards & Son), in the chair. The solicitor appearing on behalf of the debtor addressed the meeting, and, having outlined the circumstances under which the creditors had been called together, said that Mr. Guy entered the business of Glaisyer & Kemp some forty years ago. For some time he acted as a partner, and subsequently became the proprietor of the business. The present position was in no way attributable to any fault of the debtor, who had not been guilty of reckless trading, extravagance, or anything of the kind. When the debtor became sole proprietor of the business he purchased the premises and obtained a first mortgage of 5,500*l.* on them, and subsequently a second mortgage of 1,500*l.* The beginning of the debtor's trouble was when the first mortgagees, owing to the depreciation of property, came to the conclusion that their security was insufficient, called in the mortgage and sold the property, which realised just over sufficient to cover the principal, interest, and costs. After the sale he advised the debtor to submit a statement of his affairs to his creditors, and Mr. A. E. Baldwin, A.C.A., Union Bank Chambers, 8 North Street, Brighton, who had been instructed in the matter, would give them the result of the investigation.—Mr. Baldwin then submitted a statement of affairs showing the position as at May 31. This disclosed liabilities totalling 3,964*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, made up of the claims of unsecured creditors, 1,770*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; unsecured cash creditor, 883*l.* 5*s.*; guarantee of bank overdraft, 300*l.*; and partly secured creditors, 1,513*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*, less security 502*l.*—1,011*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*. The assets were as follows: Stock-in-trade, 1,627*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.*; fittings and trade utensils, 150*l.*; book-debts estimated to produce 450*l.*; household furniture, 75*l.*; and cash in hand, 28*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, making a total of 2,331*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, from which had to be deducted 87*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* for preferential claims in respect of rent, rates, taxes, and salaries. A deficiency was thus disclosed of 1,720*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*. Having dealt with the deficiency account, Mr. Baldwin said that the turnover for the last three years had been 4,782*l.*, 4,767*l.*, and 4,723*l.*, respectively. In the first of these three years a gross profit was made of 2,501*l.*, the expenses had been 1,363*l.*, and the trading had resulted in a net profit of 838*l.* In the next twelve months the gross profit was 1,713*l.*, the expenses were 1,297*l.*, and the net profit 416*l.*, while in the following year the gross profit amounted to 1,709*l.*, the expenses to 1,240*l.*, and the net profit to 469*l.*—After some discussion, during which a gentleman present said he had known Mr. Guy for thirty odd years, and he had always met his obligations, it was resolved that the debtor should execute a deed of assignment in favour of Mr. G. Montague White, C.A., 14 Old Jewry Chambers, E.C., to secure the payment of a composition of 10*s.* in the pound by such instalments and at such dates as the committee may decide, but not to extend beyond June 30, 1913. A committee of inspection was appointed, consisting of Mr. Porter (Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons), Mr. Lee (Messrs. Fry & Co., Ltd.), Mr. Dodd (Messrs. Meggeson & Co., Ltd.), Mr. Smith (Messrs. Sangers), and Mr. H. G. Evershed. The following are creditors: J. & E. Atkinson (6*l.*); Allen & Hanburys, Ltd. (25*l.*); Anglo-American Pharmaceutical Co. (12*l.*); Burroughs Wellcome & Co. (32*l.*); British Oxygen Co., Ltd. (13*l.*); The British Drug Houses, Ltd. (88*l.*); Brand & Co., Ltd. (11*l.*); Butler & Crispe (39*l.*); Boord & Son (62*l.*); T. Bunting (19*l.*); Barclay & Sons, Ltd. (11*l.*); Alfred Bishop, Ltd. (12*l.*); Bidwell, Bidwell & Co., Ltd. (33*l.*); James Burrough. Ltd. (20*l.*); Thomas Christy & Co. (6*l.*); Arthur H. Cox & Co., Ltd. (8*l.*); Cresswell Bros. (30*l.*); Currie, Thomson & Co. (14*l.*); William Edwards & Son (107*l.*); Fry & Co., Ltd. (89*l.*); Fassett & Johnson (34*l.*); D. & W. Gibbs, Ltd. (54*l.*); W. Houlder, Son & Co. (35*l.*); Harringtons, Ltd. (9*l.*); Howards & Sons, Ltd. (43*l.*); Horner & Sons (13*l.*); Max Hilbert (17*l.*); Jahnecke, Ltd. (13*l.*); S. Maw, Son & Sons (99*l.*); T. Morson & Son (108*l.*); Meggeson & Co., Ltd. (84*l.*); F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd. (24*l.*); Oppenheimer, Son & Co., Ltd. (35*l.*); Parke, Davis & Co. (25*l.*); A. & F. Pears, Ltd. (5*l.*); J. Morgan Richards & Sons, Ltd. (14*l.*); Robinson & Sons, Ltd. (6*l.*); William Ransom & Son (95*l.*); R. J. Reuter (14*l.*); Suttley & Silverlock, Ltd. (27*l.*); Sangers (28*l.*); Stevenson & Howell, Ltd. (9*l.*); W. Sutton & Co. (17*l.*); Southern Packed Drug Co. (16*l.*); William Toogood, Ltd. (5*l.*); Warriek Bros., Ltd. (7*l.*); York Glass Co., Ltd. (31*l.*).

AMONG the imports into the Azores during 1911 were drugs valued at 1,118*l.* from Portugal, 675*l.* from U.S.A., 261*l.* from Germany, 134*l.* from France, and 81*l.* from the United Kingdom. Perfumery was imported to the value of 411*l.*, the bulk of which came from Portugal and the U.S.A.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for 1*l.*) and lodged with Mr. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," May 22, 1912.)

- Label device including "H" and "X-IT" ("H" and "X-it" disclaimed); for medicinal chemicals (3). By J. Timpson & Co., Ltd., 104 Golden Lane, London, E.C. 341,080.
- "CYMARIN"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By Bayer Co., Ltd., 20 Booth Street, Manchester. 341,391.
- "TRIN-O-VINE"; for a medicated beverage (3). By Blayney & Co., 32 Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 341,529.
- "CUPID"; for optical goods (8). By G. W. Hodd, Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, London. 340,345.
- "BI-LIPTIC"; for lenses (8). By Harry Newbold, Holywell Hill, St. Albans. 340,774.
- "DUROS" and label devices including monogram in circle "D. F. Co."; for a food for children and invalids (42). By the Duros Food Co., 323 Coventry Road, Birmingham. 340,276.
- "EXTASE"; for malt extract and malt flour (42). By Paine & Co., Ltd., Market Square, St. Neots. 341,339.
- "HEROGEN"; for food-substances (42). By The British Drug Houses, Ltd., 22-30 Graham Street, City Road, London. 342,062.
- "HATRENO"; for a straw-hat cleaner (47). By the Hatrenuer Co., 9 Trinity Street, Leeds. 342,047.
- "DAWN"; for perfumed soap, etc. (48). By A. Frankau & Co., Ltd., 119 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 340,331.
- "NUCTA"; for toilet articles (48). By J. Stewart, 12 Reform Street, Dundee. 340,972.
- "DUCHESS" with picture of same: for perfumery, etc. (48). By the Erasmic Co., Ltd., Bank Quay, Warrington. 341,734.
- "CYBÈLE"; for a hair-preparation (48). By F. Fishinger, 3 Denman Street, London Bridge, S.E. 341,697.
- "AURIFEX"; for a hair-preparation (48). By H. W. Saunders, 3 Denman Street, London, S.E. 341,593.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," May 29, 1912.)

- "YELROS" and picture of idol; for chemicals (2). By J. Sorley, Manchester Street, Feilding, New Zealand. 335,838.
- "GNORTS"; for disinfectants (2). By Shuker & Stephens, Ltd., Fore Street, Ridgway, Plympton. 341,425.
- "HICKORY TREE BRAND" with picture of same; for ointments (3). By W. R. C. Ashby, 44-45 Rathbone Place, Oxford Street, London, W. 339,639.
- Label device including word "MIRATON"; for medicated pastilles (3). By G. Miraton, Chatel-Guyon, Puy-de-Dôme, France. 338,830.
- "ASEPTASOL"; for goods (3). By Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., 56 Hanover Street, Liverpool. 341,309.
- "PELLIDOL"; for pharmaceutical products (3). By Kalle & Co., 23 Rheinstrasse, Biebrich-on-the-Rhine. 342,061.
- "AFGIN"; for food-substances (42) and for mineral and aerated waters (44). By Jewsbury & Brown, Ardwick Green North, Ardwick, Manchester. 341,981/2.
- "BUBBLES"; for goods (47) and for perfumery, etc. (48). By A. & F. Pears, Ltd., 71-75 New Oxford Street, London, W.C. 340,812/3.
- "TODDLES"; for goods (47) and for perfumery, etc. (48). By Co-operative Wholesale Society, Ltd., 1 Balloon Street, Manchester. 342,138/9.

Label device including words "VERDOL OXYGÈNE"; for a dentifrice (48). By G. Rosenthal, 21 Arceaux du Port-Neuf, Bayonne. 340,521.

Circle with letters "S S" crossed and bird on twig ("S S" disclaimed); for perfumery, etc. (48). By Sangers, 258 Euston Road, London. 340,850.

"DORICENE"; for toilet preparations (48). By the Robinss Co., 63 Long Row, West Nottingham. 340,674.

"SCULPTO"; for toilet preparations (48). By Elvira, 4A Lower Belgrave Street, London, S.W. 340,996.

"KREMÉOLAINE"; for skin preparations (48). By R. Lane, 3 Duke Street, Cardiff. 341,112.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest. Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

The Late Dr. Whitaker.

SIR,—I observe that in the notice of the death of Dr. Henry Whitaker on pages 39 and 40 of last week's issue no mention is made of the fact that he was one of the original members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, being named in Section 5 of the Pharmacy Act (Ireland), 1875; and as such was one of the first Council, on which he served for sixteen years, finally retiring at the annual election in October 1891, not having offered himself for re-election.

I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours,

Dublin, June 11. ARTHUR T. FERRALL, Registrar.

The Shops Act.

SIR,—I have taken your advice and written to the Home Secretary *re* the Shops Act. I am at a loss to understand present-day reasoning and legislation, and it is funny how a shrewd observer such as "Xrayser II." can see injustice plainly in one case and be absolutely blind to the same injustice in another case. To my mind, the criticism of "The Rider to the Verdict" applies with greater force to the Shops Act, which is interesting as showing the tendency, growing stronger every day, towards what the more stalwart politicians of half-a-century ago used to stigmatise as grandmotherly government. A tradesman must not be allowed to keep his shop open and sell goods for a common purpose, or the public to purchase necessary articles, except by a doctor's prescription, etc. It will soon be penal to buy a drink except under medical supervision. The Government, with the policeman at its back, will, if this tendency persists unchecked, rule our lives from the cradle to the grave.—Yours faithfully,

48 Dorset Street, W.

H. H. LONG.

SIR,—I have seen many inquiries in the *C. & D.* touching the Shops Act, some seeking to carry out its provisions, others to evade them, but so far I have not met with any comments on its advantages or disadvantages in the light of experience. Personally, I welcome the Act most heartily. It is a great relief to be able to close the pharmacy at one o'clock on Thursdays and sit down to a meal in peace. Then one can run out for an hour or two before taking duty for a short spell in the evening. I have spoken to many pharmacists, and all are enthusiastic over the benefits the Act has brought to them. I find that the public have taken kindly to the Act; they ring the bell and very humbly ask if they can be supplied with their requirements, not at all in their usual brusque fashion when they come round on Sundays or after closing time on weekdays. Naturally the takings for the day are smaller, but the difference on a month's receipts is very small, and the gain is well worth a little sacrifice. The most notable feature of the whole matter is that the great majority of pharmacists, though exempt from the closing provisions, have voluntarily fallen into line with them. Does it not go to show that by combination and co-operation we can both lighten the burden of our arduous calling and win increased respect from the public? We have neglected these things too much in the past, and our customers have taken us at our own valuation.

Yours faithfully,

Hammersmith.

G. W. EVANS.

SIR,—Although the Shops Act is going ahead in other cities, in Belfast it is going back. With the exception of the Falls and Shankill districts, all the other districts

are practically keeping open. I hold that the chemist who lowers his blinds and closes the door and keeps the lights on is not playing so fair as the man who throws his door open wide; the latter is more straightforward anyhow. It would seem as if the chemists are getting no half-holiday; some are exempt under a wine-licence, and the others will find some other loophole to keep open provided the City Council do not make a closing order; but, so far as I can see, they do not intend to do so. What is meaner or more miserable-looking than the blinds of the chemist's shop drawn and the owner "peeking" out at passing traffic rushing to catch the boat or train for the seaside? He is to be pitied! The most surprising fact of all is we are paying into the Ulster Drug-trade Association to further our interests in the matter, but owing to pressure of business they have not lately called a general meeting to discuss the present situation. There is no more harder-working body, and I think if they, with the principals of the wholesale houses, call a meeting they will be able to find a way out of the present crisis. As every Wednesday comes the number of shops open increases. The fact of our trade association stepping in and making all hands agreeable will be the means of making it stronger, and something the chemist will look forward to in case of disputes or anything local which arises in drug-circles. Belfast chemists, think of the beauties of Bangor "Picky" on Wednesday afternoon! Think of Greencastle and the twopenny stage, of Whitehead and the caves, of the Twin Islands and the bathers, and say to yourselves, "Am I not narrow-minded? I will fall in line and enjoy myself, for the public are a 'rotten' lot to work for." Let us smile for only one evening in the week; we require it.

Yours,

G. C. (203/61.)

The B.P. and the Food and Drugs Acts.

SIR,—For fifteen years chemists and drug-companies have been harassed quite needlessly by the Food and Drugs Acts. The British Pharmacopœia, got up by doctors in the past, is now being prepared by doctors and chemists, and if we do not take this chance of putting our views before the B.P. Committee, we deserve to stop in the wilderness for another spell of fifteen years. We all know that the B.P. was an attempt to collate the special items from the various Hospital Pharmacopœias. The great mistake was made in supposing that a popular article like milk of sulphur would die a natural death by exclusion from the sacred book or that it could still be sold as distinct from the higher-grade but less popular precipitated sulphur. There was no reason why the B.P. should not discard the old milk of sulphur, but still less reason why the chemist should be penalised for supplying the legitimate demand of the public on the absurd assumption (of the Food and Drugs Inspectors) that the B.P. is the only standard. The late John Attfield, I can well remember, was most insistent on the point that he never intended the B.P. to be the *only* standard. I fancy he was one of the men who perhaps advised the B.P. Committee on technical points. I suggest:

A. That local Associations consider the matter as one of urgency, and discuss it at their next meeting.

B. Add their experience to my short list of items in this letter.

C. And then each Association send a separate request to the B.P. Committee with a *résumé* of the points which they consider need alteration.

My four main points are as follows:

1. *The B.P.* to be the standard for articles used in dispensing and in the filling of doctors' prescriptions.
2. A *Commercial Standard* to be either established for well-known homely articles, or the fact to be made quite clear in the B.P. that the B.P. standard is not to interfere with articles of a homely nature which are outside its scope.
3. *Articles which deteriorate* in keeping, such as sweet nitre and lin. camph., are not to be made the subject of prosecutions so long as the seller can satisfy the inspector that he has (a) complied with all well-known precautions, (b) kept the item in suitable containers, and (c) that it is of reasonably recent date of purchase or manufacture.
4. *Adulteration* due to process of manufacture (like the ridiculous case of citric acid containing an infinitesimal proportion of lead) not to form the basis of prosecution unless it can be shown that the lead, etc., is in such quantity as to prove without doubt that it had been added since being manufactured.

I would also like to suggest that certain articles should be specially mentioned in the B.P., to wit :

Ammonia Carbonate.—Commercial quality to be distinct from pure ammon. carb. for dispensing.

Ammonia (household, cloudy, etc.) to be distinct from liq. ammoniac B.P.

Camphorated Oil.—A wider margin to be allowed for evaporation in manufacture and keeping. To be subject to exemption as named in Point 3, on the seller proving the supply to be of recent date or recent make.

Fluid Magnesia.—To be subject to exemption. Let the B.P. suggest the keeping in 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz. bottles for sale as opposed to bulk sales. The seller to be able to satisfy inspector that he takes precautions indicated by the B.P. as to bottles, wrapping, exclusion of light, etc.

Gregory's Powder.—To be made with carbonate.

Mercurial Ointment.—To be known solely as *fort.* or *strong* mercurial ointment, and as the sale to the ordinary public is discouraged, the inspector to be obliged to put down a signed request to the seller. (No ordinary chemist would object to this, or would hesitate to comply at once.) I would not sell it to anybody without some such written request.

Methylated Liniments.—To be included in the B.P.

Lime-water (distilled) and lime-water (fontalis) to be both official. One of the Australian States makes aqua fontalis a B.P. article now, I believe.

Ointments.—A wider range and wider variance of hard and soft paraffins as opposed to lard, or *vice versa*, whichever is the best one to keep. (The B.P. already provides that in ung. paraff. alb. the quantities of hard and soft paraffins may vary with climate.) So long as the medicament is there, no prosecution could then follow.

Milk of Sulphur (old style) to be added to the B.P. or put into the Commercial Section, and the synonym to be dropped from sulph. precip.

Sweet Nitric.—To be exempt from prosecution on Point 3 so long as retailer can prove proper keeping conditions and recent purchase from makers. Tasmania has done this, chiefly, I fancy, because it was pointed out that even when badly kept and very deficient in ethyl nitrite, it was still a sudorific.

Tinctures and Infusions.—To be both spirituous and aqueous, and to be labelled as such, and to be asked for clearly by inspectors as such. (This would solve the spirit difficulty to a great extent. Doctors very largely use the aqueous tinctures in their own surgeries.)

Wholesalers must find their time seriously wasted in attending these senseless prosecutions on behalf of their oppressed customers. If the Associations will take the matter up, it should be easy to get men like Sir Edward Evans and Mr. J. C. Umney to back up the demand along with Sir Jesse Boot. It must have cost Boots, Ltd., alone, perhaps, 500*l.* to defend the methylated soap-liniment case—a senseless and unnecessary waste of time and good money.

JAY MACK.

National Insurance Dispensing.

SIR,—It will do little good to rail at the doctors, yet I believe at least 70 per cent. of pharmacists in business in Great Britain would endorse the letter of "Pharmacopolist" in your issue of June 1. Butted at by the various stores on one side and dispensing doctors on the other, we have simply to pick up a living by our wits, gloss the fact over as we may. Nevertheless, there may be "balm in Gilead." It looks as if a change was at hand. If Mr. Lloyd George sticks firmly to his original intention of keeping prescribing and dispensing separate, the pharmacist will come into his own, partly at least. Thus the foundation-stone of the bridge will be laid that may ultimately span the gulf "Pharmacopolist" speaks of.

Yours faithfully,

RADIX. (202/60.)

SIR,—I have been watching the pages of the *C. & D.* for some weeks to see if any definite policy has been taken up by the Pharmaceutical Society with regard to dispensing under the Insurance Act, and must say I have not yet seen the propositions of the Society. I, however, should like to state how the dispensing would affect me under the Act if dispensing was taken as at first proposed—*i.e.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per annum. All the doctors here are under contract to supply medical attendance and medicine (being an industrial district) to men who work at the various steel and tinplate works. These men pay the medical officer on contract 1*s.* per month. The medical

men average thirty to forty patients night and morning, surgery hours being 9 to 11 A.M. and 5 to 7 P.M. Suppose I have to dispense for fifty of these a day. Every chemist knows what time it takes to dispense fifty prescriptions and what interference it will mean to ordinary trade to have twenty or thirty prescriptions thrust upon one night and morning, even if it's rough dispensing. One of these doctors tells me he has over a thousand patients on his books, and therefore these he would naturally send to me for their medicine, etc. Taking the number of patients at 1,000 at 1*s.* 6*d.* per head per annum, it will work out at the handsome sum of 75*l.* I should have to get a qualified man to do the work at 60*l.* per annum indoors, which would work out at about 95*l.* all told, leaving me a loser by 20*l.* and giving drugs and skill for nothing. I shall be glad to know what is being done with regard to this dispensing, and would advise the secretaries of all chemists' associations to write the Pharmaceutical Society showing that it is absolutely necessary to have a scale of charges for each item and a dispensing-fee.—Yours faithfully,

PILL. (205/9.)

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

"Blue Nitrate Acid."

This ingredient in the tool-hardening composition referred to in the *C. & D.*, June 8, index folio 857, may possibly mean yellow prussiate of potash, which is frequently a component in such mixtures.—B. L. Burrell (Doncaster).

Antimonium Sulphuratum.

In determining the amount of total sulphur in antimonium sulphuratum an error of some magnitude is sure to arise if the antimony is allowed to remain in the solution, unless certain precautions are adopted. After oxidation it is found that the best means to secure accuracy is to precipitate the sulphate in the solution while hot by means of the barium chloride (it may seem more scientific to employ nitrate here), and to keep the solution hot during standing for complete precipitation. A temperature of 160° F. is high enough, but that of the water-bath is safer. Subsequent washing of the precipitate must be done with acidulated hot water at 160° F. It will be observed that as the filtrate cools a small precipitate of antimony oxychloride makes its appearance. In any case, platinum vessels must not be used for the ignition of the barium sulphate precipitate. The amount of barium sulphate precipitated does not appear to be appreciably increased after standing for an hour.—*Ibcl Scholar*.

Dispensing Notes.

This section is for the discussion and solution of dispensing problems and prescriptions submitted by "C. & D." readers. We are always pleased to receive the opinions of readers for publication. "The Art of Dispensing" ("C. & D." Office, 6*s.*) is the standard book of reference on this subject.

Cantharidin Solution.

SIR,—I have been asked by a surgeon to make up the following solution:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Cantharidin ... | ... | ... | gr. j. |
| Potassium hydroxide ... | ... | ... | gr. j. |
| Water ... | ... | ... | 300 minims |

The doctor states that potass. hydroxide is used to keep the cantharidin in solution. Kindly let me know if it is possible to dissolve cantharidin gr. j. in water 300 minims, and if I would be justified in applying heat.

Yours faithfully,

M.P.S.I. (190/60.)

[The solution is one of potassium cantharidinate, as recommended by the late Professor Oscar Liebreich for hypodermic injection. A similar solution is given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," p. 655, with double the amount of caustic potash. In the above case dissolve the potash in 1 drachm of distilled water, add the cantharidin to it, and dissolve by heating; then add the rest of the distilled water.]

Legal Queries.

Consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1912, pp. 435 to 454, where most legal difficulties are anticipated, before writing about your difficulty

Boric (204/67).—Carbolic colloid is a scheduled poison, so is crocote. The other articles which you name are not.

Gough (201/50).—The present wording of the Head and Nerve Powder wrapper enables the medicine to be sold by unlicensed vendors, as it is an entire drug. The addition of the three words which you suggest is not advisable.

E. W. P. (204/34).—An indoor apprentice to a chemist who has paid a premium, receives no salary, and who has contracted to supply himself with medicines and medical attendance, is outside the provisions of the National Insurance Act.

Castor (203/10).—No special regulation has been formulated under the Factory Acts in regard to the protection of steam-jacketed pans. You should ask your local inspector about yours if you are at all in doubt as to the need for guarding them so as to prevent accident.

Stamp (179/29) wishes to know whether the inclusion among a testator's debts of a statute-barred debt, upon application for probate, can be construed as an admission of liability so as to revive the debt. [It has recently been decided that if an executor includes a statute-barred debt in the Inland Revenue affidavit made by him on his application for probate, it does not constitute a sufficient acknowledgment to revive the debt.]

Sandy (195/73).—The regulation course laid down by the Board of Trade for opposition to the registration of anything as a trade-mark is to obtain from a money-order office for 20s. form T.M. No. 7. This form is a notice of opposition, and full instructions for filling it are given with the form, which must be lodged within one month of the date of publication of the "Trade-marks Journal," in which notice of the application for the trade-mark is published.

H. K. W. (202/18).—(1) An apprentice who receives no money from his employer is outside the Insurance Act. You pay yours pocket-money; that is wages, so that you have to pay in respect to each of them 6d. per week, which is the 1s. 6d. per day wages rate. The apprentices pay nothing, and the State pays 3d. in respect to them. (2) The Chemists' Friendly Society must, of course, give all the benefits provided by the Act. You should get its prospectus and compare with others.

Senrab (196/21).—So far the Commissioners of Customs and Excise have regarded mouth-washes as toilet preparations, and "decay," as not being an ailment, so that such a label as the following does not incur medicine stamp-duty:

"ANTISEPTIC MOUTH-WASH.—The antiseptic properties of this elegant preparation effectually arrest decay. Directions.—A teaspoonful to be added to half a tumbler of warm water and used as a mouth-wash two or three times a day."

X. Y. Z. (195/74) asks: "Can payment of a promissory note, made payable on demand 'with lawful interest,' be enforced after twenty years of non-recognition? What is 'lawful interest'?" [If the maker of the note has not given any written acknowledgment for the debt, nor paid any sum on account of principal or interest within the last six years, he cannot now be forced to pay, unless the holder of the note was an infant or of unsound mind at the date of the note, in which case he will be allowed six years from the cessation of such disability in which to sue. The rate of interest usually allowed in such cases as the present is 5 per cent., but is in the discretion of the Court.]

S. (203/16).—(1) The application of a registered trade-mark to toilet articles does not render them liable to medicine-stamp duty. That depends upon whether or not the articles are recommended for the prevention or cure of human ailments. (2) It is legal for any person, whether registered as a medical practitioner or not, to treat people free or for a fee and to advertise the fact, subject to his not holding himself out as a registered medical practitioner, and to the pains and penalties which follow upon anyone undertaking to do something for which he is not properly qualified. In the event of a person feeling aggrieved or injured by the treatment, he would have a good case for damages against the unregistered practitioner. (3) Anyone not registered as a chemist or medical practitioner can do business in toilet and medicinal specialties, but if they contain scheduled poisons such persons may not sell them by retail.

V. F. (202/24) wants to know the weekly contributions under the Insurance Act for each of the following male employes. We append the payments by employer and employé:

| | Employer stamps card with | Employer deducts from wages |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Counter-assistant, 45s. weekly ... | 7d. ... | 4d. |
| 1 " " 40s. " ... | 7d. ... | 4d. |
| 1 Dispenser and packer, 30s. weekly ... | 7d. ... | 4d. |
| 1 Packer, 25s. weekly ... | 7d. ... | 4d. |
| 1 Errand-boy, part time, 3s. 6d. weekly ... | 6d. ... | 0d. |

If the errand-boy is otherwise employed, the first employer stamps the card and gets a *pro rata* rebate from other employers.

Shops Act: Questions and Replies.

S. C. F. (205/16) says: "All trades in this town are exempt from closing half-day during four months of the year except the grocers, who are closing. Can we chemists sell anything we have on the premises, such as (which we always stock) tea, coffee, soap, photo goods, etc.?" [No, only exempted goods, a list of which is given on our notice card.]

W. F. G. (203/47).—(1) This and other queries arise from your not reading the words of the Act. Read especially Section 4, Sub-section 7, which you will find on the back of our notice card. (2) You have acted judiciously in refusing to sell toilet preparations during closing hours. (3) A chemist may not sell *any* thing that he stocks during closing hours. If he sells goods which are not "medicines and medical and surgical appliances" and is afterwards prosecuted he may take advantage of the defence provided by Section 4, Sub-section 7. (4) Any person may describe his place of business as a dental surgery.

A. V. (203/39) closes at one o'clock on Wednesdays; occasionally he is called to the side door to supply urgent medicines, etc. As the customer does not enter the shop, is it necessary to exhibit a notice in the window while serving the articles, the shop door remaining closed? [There is nothing in the Act or Regulations that makes the presence of a customer in the shop a condition necessary to regard it as open during closing hours. The act of serving medicines is evidence that the shop is "kept open," and the notice is necessary, one in the interior and one on the exterior of the shop. The latter may be against the window on the inside, or outside the side door.]

Mortar (204/23) is a chemist in a town in Ireland where there is no agreement as to the half-day closing, and his shop is not one in which the sale by retail of intoxicating liquors is carried on. He puts the following questions: (A) I have two assistants. If one is away on holidays, or sick, is the other assistant entitled to a half-day? [Yes.] (B) If I am away, must each assistant get a half-day every week? [Yes.] (C) If I give a half-holiday in the morning, how many hours must I give the assistant? I open at 8.15 A.M. [There is no provision in the Act for this, except in the case of shops where intoxicating liquors are retailed. The half-holiday for all other shop-assistants begins at 1.30 P.M.]

Chemist (191/11) is also a medical practitioner, and asks what he should do under the following circumstances: On a half-holiday a customer came to his shop in regard to a skin-complaint, and among other things he prescribed Wright's coal-tar soap, a tablet of which was sold to the customer across the counter during closing hours. Was this legal? [Perfectly legal. Whatever is prescribed for the prevention, cure, or relief of ailments is a medicine or medical or surgical appliance, and may be sold during the half-holiday. Our correspondent remarks: "Wright's coal-tar soap is somewhat exceptional, because being medicated with coal-tar it can be regarded as a medical requirement, as in the case quoted. Yet, on the other hand, the majority of people use and request it in a purely toilet sense." This is so; but the fact remains that in the case mentioned it was part of a medical prescription, a fact which enables the retailer to sell it at any time for the purpose specified.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

H. W. (196/60).—BY CALCI CARB. PPT., precipitated chalk is meant, "ppt." being the contraction for precipitatus, and rarely used for præparata, in which case "præp." is the contraction.

G. W. U. (203/15).—TROPEOLIN 00 is the sodium salt of diphenylamine-sulphanilic acid, also known as diphenyl-

orange. The "00" distinguishes it from Tropæolin 0 (sodium salt of azo-resorcin-sulphanilic acid or resorcin-yellow), Tropæolin D (methyl-orange), and Tropæolin 000 Nr. 1 (α -naphthol-orange or Orange I) and Tropæolin 000 Nr. 2 (β -naphthol-orange or Orange II).

M. L. J. (177/64).—**TODD'S MIXTURE.**—This is the Potion de Todd of the French Codex, which in the present edition is given as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Alcohol at 60° | ... | ... | 40 grams |
| Simple syrup | ... | ... | 30 grams |
| Tincture of cinnamon | ... | ... | 5 grams |
| Distilled water | ... | ... | 75 grams |

Mix.

Old brandy or rum was originally employed for the alcohol.

A. & S. (177/66).—The **GRAM** or **CHICK-PEA** (*Cicer arietinum*, L.) is largely used for fattening sheep in India, where it is also given to horses in place of oats. For cattle it is there too dear, as they are not fed in the sense they are in this country. Its value as a stock food in Great Britain compared with other foodstuffs used would, roughly, be represented by its composition compared with such other foodstuffs. In "Food-grains of India" Professor Church gives the following percentage analyses of the chick-pea, the first figures relating to the whole seed and those in parentheses to husked seed: Water, 11.2 (11.5); albuminoids, 19.5 (21.7); starch, 53.8 (59.0); oil, 4.6 (4.2); fibre, 7.8 (1.0); ash, 3.1 (2.6), containing phosphoric acid 0.8 (1.1). The principal literature on the subject is contained in the following works: "A Dictionary of the Economic Products of India," 1889, pp. 274-284; "The Agricultural Ledger (India)," 1901, pp. 358-9; "The Commercial Products of India," by Sir George White, 1908, pp. 295-302; and the Fifth Annual Report on Exports of Cambridge University Department of Agriculture, pp. 87-91. The last named contains reports on experiments on feeding sheep with grain.

W. J. (202/23).—**RAT-POISON.**—Squill is probably the vegetable rat-poison to which you refer. We gave formulæ for suitable combinations in the *C. & D.*, March 4, 1911, index folio 338, and April 15, 1911, index folio 559.

Tencx (196/11).—(1) **VIOLIN VARNISH.**—The oil varnish is made according to a recipe on the following model:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Amber, fused | ... | ... | 2 oz. |
| Turpentine oil | ... | ... | 5 oz. |
| Drying linseed oil | ... | ... | 5 oz. |

Solve.

(2) **WHOOPIING-COUGH MIXTURE.**—The following is the variety of mixture to which you refer:

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Potassium bromide | ... | ... | 3j. |
| Carbolic acid | ... | ... | mxxv. |
| Tincture of belladonna | ... | ... | 3j. |
| Tincture of lobelia | ... | ... | 3ss. |
| Vinegar of ipecacuanha | ... | ... | 5ij. |
| Syrup of tolu | ... | ... | 3ss. |
| Oxymel of squill | ... | ... | 5i. |
| Water to make | ... | ... | 3iv. |

Dose: 5ij. every three or four hours.

F. E. C. (196/30).—**WATERPROOFING TENTS.**—See *C. & D.*, May 6, 1911, index folio 686.

Nicotine (196/61).—**SHEEP-DIP.**—Regarding the use of nicotine or tobacco-juice in sheep-dip, see "Pharmaceutical Formulas," pp. 427 and 428. Reference should also be made to Leaflet 145 of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Scassi (196/42).—**BROMPTON HOSPITAL COUGH-LOZENGES:**

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Extract of liquorice | ... | ... | gr. iij. |
| Oil of anise | ... | ... | mss. |
| Lozenge-basis | ... | ... | gr. xv. |

For one lozenge.

C. C. P. (196/45).—**INFANTS' FOOD.**—You must refer to "Pharmaceutical Formulas" for an outline of the methods of preparing the various kinds of infants' food. The information there given would take up more space than we can spare in this column.

W. E. W. (191/47).—**COPYING LACE.**—We are not acquainted with the impression method of copying lace or embroidery. Probably a modelling composition such as is used by children would answer the purpose.

J. W. A. (194/14).—**FLY-PAPER MANUFACTURE.**—The article to which you refer was given in the *C. & D.*, July 23, 1906, p. 191.

Bovis (183/51).—**MEAT-PRESERVATIVE.**—The powder mixed with an equal quantity of potassium metasilphite, 1 oz. of the mixed powders being enough to preserve 23 lb. of meat, is an acid salt of the nature of cream of tartar.

Botolph (193/61).—**DENTAL ANÆSTHETIC** containing cocaine and adrenalin:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. Cocaine hydrochloride | ... | ... | 0.75 gram |
| Adrenalin solution (1-1000) | ... | ... | 5 grams |
| Physiologic solution | ... | ... | 100 grams |

Mix.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| 2. Cocaine hydrochloride | ... | ... | 9.5 grains |
| Sodium chloride | ... | ... | 8 grains |
| Adrenalin solution | ... | ... | 28 minims |
| Sterile water | ... | ... | 2 oz. |

Mix.

Formulæ containing other analgesics are given in the *C. & D.*, March 16, 1912, index folio 402; July 2, 1910, index folio 19; October 22, 1910, index folio 628; January 8, 1910, p. 52.

R. J. D. (191/12).—**WARTS ON CATTLE.**—The following formulæ are employed for removing warts or angleberries from cattle:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. Arsenic | ... | ... | 5j. |
| Soft soap | ... | ... | 5j. |
| 2. Zinc chloride | ... | ... | 5j. |
| Spirit | ... | ... | 5j. |

Mix. Apply a small quantity to the wart twice a day.

Mix. Apply daily after soaking the wart with warm water.

Vinegar (191/8).—We have no formula for a process of making malt vinegar other than by fermentation.

H. W. H. (191/59).—**FUMIGATING GREENHOUSES.**—See *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, 1910, pp. 217 and 222.

T. H. W. (187/6).—**LAWN-SAND.**—This preparation is sprinkled upon the weeds in a lawn, avoiding the grass as much as possible. We cannot give you a definite amount for a given area, and it is hardly advisable to limit your customer's use of the article.

W. & H. J. (189/8).—**SOLID FACE-POWDER.**—The best procedure for preparing a loosely conglomerated powder as an application for the face would be to make the powder into a stiff paste with an aqueous liquid containing a trace of tragacanth; form the paste into blocks, and dry these slowly. A few experiments may be necessary before the method succeeds perfectly.

Anticlinar (185/47).—**HAIR-RESTORING POMADE.**—The following are formulæ for this class of preparation:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Bismuth subnitrate | 5x. | 2. Lead acetate | 5iss. |
| Milk of sulphur | 5v. | Sodium thiosulphate, | |
| Lanoline pomade | 5viij. | dried | 5ij. |
| Mix. | | Pomade-basis | 3iv. |
| | | Mix. | |

Nemo (196/1).—**VETERINARY SALT.**—The aperient salt which you send is Epsom salts coloured with Armenian bole.

D. G. K. (Bombay) (201/48).—**CUDBEAR** will be a suitable colouring substance for the hypophosphate syrup. The tincture of cudbear is made as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Cudbear, in fine powder | ... | ... | 2 oz. |
| Spirit, | | | |
| Water | ... | ... | of each equal parts |

Percolate the cudbear until 14½ oz. of tincture is obtained.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," June 14, 1862.

Trade Report.

In chemicals rather more business has been done in several articles at, in many cases, a better price. Large sales of Iodine have been made at 5½d. to 6¼d., but market is now dull at 5½d. to 6d. Sales in Tartaric Acid have been made at 1s. 8d. A good business has been done in Chlorate of Potass at 11½d. More sales in Oxalic Acid, at 9d. to 9½d. for best quality. Bichromate of Potass remains quiet, at 8½d. to 8½d. Prussiate of Potass continues dull and nominal, 12½d. Soda Ash is quiet, at 2½d. to 2½d.; a fair business done. Sulphate of Quinine at 7s. to 7s. 4d. for Pellitiers. More doing in Cream of Tartar, at 6l. 7s. 6d. to 6l. 10s. Flour of Brimstone is dull at 13s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., according to quality. Sulphate of Copper only in retail demand, at 32s. 6d. to 35s. Refined Saltpetre is dull at 45s. to 46s. Several sales have been made in Spirits of Turpentine, at 73s. 6d. to 74s. 6d. for American and 70s. 6d. to 72s. for French. Linseed Oil is quieter, at 39s. in London and 38s. 3d. in Hull. Rosin is quiet, at 13s. 6d. to 14s. for common. Ashes remain quiet at our quoted prices. In other articles very little doing, and without change in price.



